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Near East & South Asia

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LD301414 [Editorial Report]

France, Iran, and Syria

Paris radio announced that Iranian Embassy translator Vahid Gorji will be exchanged for French Consul Paul Torri at Karachi Airport 30 November in a move that signals the resumption of dialogue between France and Iran. Gorji left Paris the previous night after a long interview with a French judge, while Torri was released by the Iranian authorities after appearing before a tribunal in Tehran, the radio noted. Confirming the release of both men, IRNA said Gorji rejected the allegations brought against him by the French authorities, who had "nothing to prove" their case. Torri left Tehran after over 3 hours of interrogation at the Islamic Revolution Court, the agency noted.

The exchange of Gorji for Torri follows the release of French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque in Beirut 27 November and their return to France the following day, according to Paris radio. French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said their release is a step on the road to normalizing relations with Iran, the radio noted, but he cautioned that France cannot restore relations with Iran while groups under Iranian influence continue to hold other hostages. The radio also broadcast Chirac's "categorical denial" of allegations that France paid a ransom to secure the release of Normandin and Auque. A security official in one of the Islamic organizations in Beirut had earlier claimed that France paid a ransom to secure the hostages' release, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

In Syria, Damascus radio broadcast the text of a message from Chirac to President Hafiz al-Asad expressing "warm thanks" for Syria's help in gaining freedom for Normandin and Auque. France "particularly values Syria's action" because of the "difficulties" that obstructed the release operation, Chirac said, and it hopes the Syrian authorities will continue to use their influence to secure the release of other French hostages in Lebanon. The French Government also expressed "gratitude" to Iran over the hostages' release, Paris radio reported.

Regarding Syrian-Iranian relations, IRNA noted that the Iranian ambassador in Damascus held talks with the Syrian information minister 29 November on "strategic" relations and the expansion of bilateral ties. The Syrian official reportedly emphasized that his country's stand toward Iran and the Gulf war is "unchanged."

Gulf Conflict

Iranian Policy—If the United States continues its "provocative and mischievous acts" in the Gulf, Iran will "certainly strike" at it without waiting for a U.S. strike on Iran first, President 'Ali Khamene'i asserted in a 28 November speech reported by IRNA. Iranian Defense Minister Hoseyn Jalali subsequently announced that Iran is manufacturing "two types of advanced missiles," according to IRNA. As for Iran's response to the UN secretary general's request for Iran to send a representative to New York, Tehran radio announced that Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mohammad Javad Larijani would leave for New York 30 November to represent Iran in this capacity.

Iraqi Warning—At a 28 November meeting chaired by President Saddam Husayn, Iraq's Revolution Command Council expressed confidence in the Iraqi Armed Forces' ability to "crush any aggression" and warned Iran against beginning "any new foolish adventure," Baghdad radio reported.

Military Activity—The Iraqi Air Force raided "power distribution" installations at the Reza Shah and Sadd-e Dez dams 29 November, hitting the targets with volleys of missiles, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses (VOM) radio. VOM and Baghdad radio also carried statements announcing air strikes on three more maritime targets 27-29 November. A Cypriot-owned tanker was hit by a missile 27 November after loading oil at Khark Island, Athens radio noted.

Iraqi warplanes and helicopters also raided Iranian troop concentrations in the northern sector 28 November, an Iraqi spokesman told INA. The agency carried an official denial of Iranian claims that an Iraqi plane was downed in the attacks. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA stated that Iranian jets bombed Iraqi positions in the Hajj 'Umran sector the following day.

The military situation in the north was mentioned by Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his Friday sermon, which was broadcast by Tehran radio. He described the "Nasr-8" sector near Mawat as a "graveyard" for the Iraqis, contending that Iranian forces have cut a "canal" into northern Iraq that takes them to within 10 km of the area "liberated" by forces of Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani. In contrast, "reliable" military sources in Baghdad cited by WAKH claimed that Iran lost over 5,000 men killed in its latest offensive in the Haj 'Umran sector. The Iranian attack was a "foolish" reaction to an offensive launched by the Iranian opposition National Liberation Army, the sources said.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordanian King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad 30 November on a working visit during which he will hold talks with Saddam Husayn, Amman radio reported.

"Informed sources" in Cairo cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated that King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are studying a plan to establish a joint military command which will formulate a plan to confront dangers threatening the Gulf countries. The proposal envisages the creation of a 15,000-man Jordanian-Egyptian force financed by the GCC states, the sources indicated.

As for Egypt's relations with the PLO, MENA noted that the Egyptian foreign minister informed the PLO representative in Cairo of Egypt's decision to allow the PLO flag to be raised above the organization's main office in Cairo beginning 29 November.

Aftermath of Northern Israel Attack

In another statement on its 25 November operation in northern Israel, the PFLP-GC stated that the attack was carried out by four fedayeen, two of whom managed to return safely to base, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The man killed at the IDF base was Syrian, the statement confirmed, and the other commando killed by the Israelis was Tunisian. Damascus radio broadcast a message to President al-Asad and some other Arab leaders sent by the four "heroes" of the operation before departing on their mission. They linked the operation with the need to "confront the course pursued by the Arab and Palestinian right," saying they were "fighters from Syria, Tunisia, and Palestine" who were determined to uphold the banner of pan-Arab armed struggle. Responding to the U.S. official condemnation of the PFLP-GC operation, a Damascus radio commentary contrasted this with the United States' alleged silence over Israel's "terrorist and aggressive acts" against Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere, contending that it is the Israeli rulers, not their "victims," who are the main source of violence in the region.

In the wake of the attack in Israel, Beirut radio carried reports of Israeli military preparations in southern Lebanon, stating that a force comprising 2,000 men supported by tanks entered the southern part of the Al-Biqa' Valley 28 November. As for the internal repercussions inside Israel, Jerusalem radio disclosed that severe disciplinary steps will be taken against all ranks of the IDF brigade hit in the 25 November attack, noting that a brigade commander has taken responsibility for negligence.

In a separate development, an anonymous caller told AFP that the PLO's "Force-17" was responsible for killing two Israelis found dead in a Jerusalem supermarket the night of 25 November, claiming that the men were Shin Bet agents. However, the Israeli police minister said the murders were probably the result of a robbery that somehow went wrong, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

Lebanon

Nine people were killed and 35 were wounded by a shell which fell on an Internal Security Forces institute in Al-Hadath during a 28 November exchange of fire across Muslim-Christian contact lines in southern Beirut, according to Beirut radio. An Internal Security Forces statement indicated that most of the casualties were young gendarmes who were exercising in a courtyard where the shell landed. Voice of Lebanon radio said the "massacre" was inflicted by tank fire that was aimed at targets in the Christian-held suburb of Kafr Shima.

Afghanistan

Grand Assembly Meeting—Four "powerful explosions" shook the Kabul hall where PDPA General Secretary Najibullah was addressing the opening session of the Afghan Grand Assembly 29 November, AFP reported. Assad Keshtmand, deputy chief of the International Relations Department of the party Central Committee, told the agency that rebel rockets fell "in the mountains" around the city.

The Assembly is expected to ratify the draft constitution and elect a president, *Bakhtar* reported. In his speech, Najibullah stressed that the constitution aims at creating a "legislative basis" for national reconciliation that will end the war, TASS reported. The adoption of the new basic law is a significant event "which goes beyond the borders" of Afghanistan, Najibullah declared, and he urged the creation of conditions favorable to speeding up the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

According to the TASS report, Najibullah announced that, "in conditions of national reconciliation," a new "supreme body of state power" called the "National Council" will be created. A majority of Assembly delegates also voted to rename their country the "Republic of Afghanistan," TASS noted. In line with the PDPA's pledge to share power, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council authorized the creation of four new parties, Kabul radio reported 27 November.

In two separate incidents 30 November, Afghan soldiers fired on cars attempting to break through roadblocks in Kabul, AFP reported, noting that one incident, involving a former rebel leader from Qandahar, took place near the Grand Assembly meeting hall.

Group Accepts Amnesty—A 650-member opposition group laid down its arms in Sar-e Pol District, Jowzjan Province, *Bakhtar* reported 27 November.

Travel Advisory—A *Bakhtar* statement cited by Kabul radio warned that the Afghan Government cannot guarantee the safety of foreigners who enter the country "in secret and illegally" along with rebel groups. The statement, which asserted that the rebels have orders not to abandon dead and wounded foreigners and to "take all measures" to prevent their capture, came in response to an investigation of a report that three "European-looking foreigners" were seem among guerrillas who recently clashed with soldiers near the Pakistani border.

Sudan-Ethiopia

The Sudanese Armed Forces have launched an operation to recapture Kurmuk on the border with Ethiopia, SUNA reported 29 November. In remarks cited by the agency, Ahmad al-Mirghani, State Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, condemned "naked, treacherous aggression" by "foreign forces" aiding the rebel campaign, and he urged all popular and political groups to heed the recent call to mobilize against internal "challenges" as well as "external Ethiopian aggression."

In a related development, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi canceled his trip to Addis Ababa for the African summit on financial issues, according to a statement from the Council of Ministers General Secretariat cited by SUNA. The statement noted that a "deterioration in relations" caused the premier to authorize the trade minister to lead the Sudanese delegation.

Libya-Chad

The rumors that Libya is planning an offensive against Chad were "fabricated" as part of France's "divide and conquer" strategy, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted in a wide-ranging interview reported by JANA 28 November. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that Libya is "now within its international borders" and hopes to contribute to ending Chad's "internal and tribal" problem "in which France got involved."

A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA denied that Libyan troops recently carried out an attack in eastern Chad and accused Chad of trying to create conditions favorable for the United States to launch a "new aggression" against Libya. According to a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio, "fierce fighting" occurred 27 November when Libyan "mercenaries" in Sudan crossed the border to assault FANT soldiers in the Bosbeda area.

Tunisia

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali issued a statement 29 November announcing his intention to abolish the State Security Court and the title of the republican public prosecutor, Tunis radio reported. Proposals to this effect will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. The announcement followed the State Security Court's decision the previous day to confirm all but two of the sentences passed in absentia 2 months earlier on 13 defendants associated with the Islamic Tendency Movement, according to the radio. The sentences provide for the execution of Ali Arid, life imprisonment with hard labor for Fadhel Beldi, and a 20-year hard labor terms for five others. Two men had their sentences halved from 10 to 5 years.

Meanwhile, President Ben Ali announced measures to care for and promote Islam, the radio reported, noting that they include an increase in the size of the Higher Islamic Council to give it "wider representation," the publication of a religious periodical, and broadcasting the call for prayers on radio and television. The radio also revealed that the Social Democrats Movement and the Communist Party are among the opposition parties which have begun holding meetings in the current climate of "interaction" in Tunisia.

In a foreign policy development, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche visited Morocco 28 November to convey a message from President Ben Ali to King Hassan II, Rabat radio reported.

Algeria

French Envoy Summoned Over Attacks on Nationals

LD292015 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The French ambassador to Algeria has just been summoned to the Foreign Ministry. This summons follows the further outbreak of murderous attacks carried out against Algerian nationals in France. You are reminded that Algeria has expressed its deep emotion and great concern over the loss of life and the circumstances under which these murders were committed. The need to strengthen measures helping to guarantee the safety and dignity of the Algerian community in France was also stressed. [passage omitted]

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 'Brief Visit'

JN281917 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Algiers today on a brief visit to Algeria.

Brother Abu 'Ammar will hold talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. They will discuss the current Arab situation in light of the Amman summit resolutions, developments affecting the Palestinian question, the condition of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and the outcome of Algerian efforts to unify the Palestinian action.

Holds Talks With President

LD282150 Algiers APS in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, 28 Nov (APS)—Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general and president of the Republic, today received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at the presidential office.

The meeting focused on the results of the Amman emergency Arab summit, recent military developments in the Arab occupied territories, the consolidation of the Palestinian cause on Arab and international levels, and the military escalation in the Gulf.

After arriving at Houari Boumedienne International Airport this morning, Mr 'Arafat stated that the Amman extraordinary Arab summit, the important resolutions concerning the Palestinian cause, the Gulf war, and recent developments on several levels—such as the situation of our people in the occupied territories and in the Lebanese camps—all compel us to consult with President Chadli Bendjedid and the brotherly Algerian officials.

'Arafat then stated: "As usual, whenever a crisis develops, we come to Algeria to meet with President Chadli Bendjedid. He shows as much concern for the Palestinian struggle as he does for the Algerian cause." 'Arafat praised the great efforts President Bendjedid made during the Amman Arab summit conference. These efforts concerned the Palestinian resolutions that were adopted as well as the other resolutions, all of which ensured the success of the conference.

In discussing the recent fedayeen operation, 'Arafat pointed out that it proves more than ever before that despite all the Israeli attempts to dissuade them from continuing their struggle, the Palestinian people are determined to continue their fight. They will do this as part of their revolution until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem.

Views Talks, PLO Operations

LD282151 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] After meeting today with President Chadli Bendjedid, Mr Yasir 'Arafat spoke with our television correspondent, Zine El Abidine Bou Acha. He discussed the talks he held with the president and the daring operation recently carried out by Palestinian fedayeen in northern Palestine. Mr 'Arafat stated:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] We undoubtedly must point out that this meeting with his excellency the president follows the conclusion of the Arab summit. It also fortunately follows this heroic operation in northern Palestine and the recent heroic operations in Jerusalem, Gaza, and other areas where our occupied territories are witnessing a qualitative and quantitative escalation against the detested Israeli occupation. In addition to this, there is the great popular uprising, now in its 9th month. It is continuing in schools, villages, camps, and towns. This stresses the determination of our people to fight for their full rights and to raise the Palestinian flag over holy Jerusalem.

I discussed a great number of important issues with the brother president. We reviewed the results of the Amman proceedings, the recent developments taking place in the occupied lands and southern Lebanon, important Arab and Palestinian issues—such as the Israeli threats to the south of Lebanon following this Palestinian raid—and the escalation occurring in the Gulf war.

I thanked his excellency the president on behalf of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian fighters for his sincere stand beside our people. This resulted in the important resolutions issued by the Amman summit conference. This sincere stand stresses what Algeria has always repeated: We are always with Palestine. I hope to God that it always stands by victorious Palestine, God willing.

[Bou Acha] Mr 'Arafat, does the recent heroic Palestinian operation represent a new starting point and a current intensification of military operations in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] We must point out that this action is one of a growing series of operations being carried out in our occupied territories. It is sufficient to note the declarations made by the ministers of defense and the police [not further identified] several days ago, when they pointed out that there is a qualitative and quantitative escalation in military operations against the Israeli occupation.

As is known, a resolution was passed by our PNC stipulating an increase in military operations against the Israeli occupation. [end recording]

Political Bureau Discusses Maghreb Unity

LD251505 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, November 25 (APS)—The Political Bureau meeting here under the chairmanship of the head of state examined the evolution of the situation in the Maghreb in the light of the dynamic of consultations sparked by President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative in concert with the political leaderships of the countries of the region.

The Political Bureau expressed appreciation of the progress achieved in respect of the preparation of conditions to ensure the success of this initiative and reiterated Algeria's abiding faith in a unitary edification of the Grand Arab Maghreb and her determination to pursue her efforts for the achievement of this historical task.

The Political Bureau reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to the treaty of fraternity and concord as a significant step on the path of the edification of the Maghreb.

The Political Bureau of the party Central Committee reaffirmed that the Western Sahara conflict constitutes the main obstacle in the speeding up of the Maghreb edification process and renewed support for the mediation efforts conducted by the OAU acting president and the UN secretary general.

The Political Bureau expressed conviction that the constitutional changes that occurred in Tunisia will enable the Tunisian people to continue their march on the road of progress and prosperity. The Political Bureau commended the achievements of President Habib Bourguiba whose decisive contribution is written in gilt lettering. Algeria will never forget that President Bourguiba stood firmly by her side during the hardships of the national liberation war.

Bendjedid Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD251542 Algiers APS in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The Council of Ministers convened this morning, Wednesday, at presidential headquarters under the chairmanship of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN.

The Council of Ministers looked into a number of important issues concerning, in particular, the 1988 annual plan and the progress made in implementing the government measures of 9 April 1986 regarding veterans.

Chad

Communique on Border Clash With Islamic Legion

AB281937 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1918 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Communique No 97 issued by the FANT High Command on 28 November in Ndjamena]

[Text] Sudan continues to again permit the insane man of Sidra to freely make use of its territory, to carry out criminal acts of aggression against the martyred Chadian people. On 27 November 1987, fierce fighting took place between the valiant FANT and the Islamic Legion of Al-Qadhdhafi. This occurred on the Chad-Sudan border at (?Aptanduta), in Bosbeda Subprefecture. Of course, the valiant FANT, who are determined to crush every act of aggression no matter where it comes from, repelled the horde of savage Al-Qadhdhafi mercenaries and inflicted heavy losses on them. Here is the outcome of this fighting:

On the enemy side: Forty-four mercenaries were killed, 2 were taken prisoner, many wounded troops were carried away, and many light weapons were captured.

On the FANT side: We regret the glorious death of three martyrs on the battlefield, and five wounded.

In pursuing his annexionist policy against Chad and in violating the cease-fire, Al-Qadhdhafi continues to make use of Sudanese territory. Sudan should know that by allowing Libya to attack Chad from its territory, it is also exposing itself to the thunder of the FANT.

Egypt

PLO Flag Raised Over Cairo Office 29 Nov

NC291230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stated that it has been decided to raise the Palestinian flag above the main PLO headquarters in Cairo, effective today.

'Benevolent Gesture' Praised
NC291243 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Zuhdi al-Qadrah, the PLO representative in Cairo.

Zuhdi al-Qadrah has stated that Dr 'Abd al-Majid informed him of the Egyptian decision to raise the Palestinian flag above the main PLO headquarters in Cairo as of today. Al-Qadrah expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to noble Egypt and to President Husni Mubarak for this benevolent, pan-Arab gesture.

Al-Nasir's Son Questioned About Organization
NC300924 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Nov 87 p 1, 5

[Text] Cairo (*Al-Safir*)—Informed sources in Cairo have affirmed that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son of the late leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, was summoned for questioning about 3 weeks ago with regards to his alleged relationship with the "Egypt's Revolution" organization, whose members have recently been arrested on charges of attacking the Israeli and U.S. presence in Egypt.

The sources explained that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir was summoned upon his return from abroad by the State Security Investigations Department, which is undertaking the investigation of the defendants in this case. His questioning lasted about 2 hours and was held only to determine whether he has any links with this organization, as claimed by one of the defendants. The sources said that he told the investigators that he has no connection with this organization, albeit he does not hide his hostility to the Israelis and the Americans.

The sources added that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir left the State Security Prosecution building for his home after the prosecution had received strict orders from certain quarters, reportedly the Presidential Office, to stop the investigation and to allow him to leave immediately. The orders also lifted the ban on his foreign travel.

Meanwhile, reliable sources have denied reports that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir has decided to leave Egypt for good and settle abroad. They also denied that he was asked to leave Egypt, as a persona non grata, by the Egyptian regime.

The sources explained that the real reason for his desire to leave for Yugoslavia is that his wife has been plagued by kidney trouble for years, and that he had received an offer from a large medical center in Yugoslavia to treat his wife free of charge in honor and tribute to his late father. He has also received a Soviet offer to send a senior Soviet kidney specialist to Yugoslavia to supervise the treatment of his wife there.

Indictment Issued Against Pro-Libyan Group
JN252144 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 87 pp 7, 9

[By Ibrahim Abu Kaylah]

[Text] Public Prosecutor Counsellor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi yesterday issued an indictment with regard to the case of communicating with the Libyan regime. Fifteen defendants are involved in the case, eight of whom are fugitives, two in custody, and five released pending trial.

The defendants were accused of establishing an anti-regime organization and attempting to carry out acts of sabotage in the country. Their aim was to harm the country's political and economic status, as well as the national interests.

The public prosecutor ordered that the defendants be referred to the Supreme State Security Court and that the fugitives be captured and placed under protective custody. The public prosecutor asked that the defendants be punished with life imprisonment or shorter periods of imprisonment plus hard labor.

The investigations were conducted by the Supreme State Security Prosecution and were supervised by Counsellor Raja' al-'Arabi, the first attorney of the Supreme State Security Prosecution. The instruments of evidence included 11 witnesses for the prosecution and the defendants' confessions. The defendants are:

—Salah al-Din Dasuqi Hasan Sayyid Ahmad, in custody, 48 years-old, director of the Arab Center for Administration and Development;

—'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ali 'Abd al-Qadir, fugitive, 37 years-old, advocate;

—Jamal al-Din Munib Ibrahim Junaydi, in custody, 34 years-old, electronics engineer;

—Muhammad 'Awad Muhammad al-Ghamri, 25 years-old, advocate;

—Hafiz al-Sayyid Muhammad Ahmad al-Sa'd, known as Hafiz Abu Sa'dah, 22 years-old, student at the Faculty of Law at Cairo University;

—Yasir Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad al-Sad, 25 years-old, advocate;

—Ahmad al-Sayyid Muhammad al-Sawi, 33 years-old, teaching assistant at the Faculty of Archaeology at Cairo University;

—Muhammad Sha'ban Muhammad Salim, fugitive, 38 years-old, advocate;

—Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ali 'Abd al-Qadir, fugitive, 25 years-old, advocate;

—Ahmad 'Abd al-Mu'ti Mahmud Husayn, fugitive, 23 years-old, student at the Faculty of Law at Cairo University;

—Mustafa Yasin Husayn Barakat, fugitive, 24 years-old, student at the Faculty of Law at Cairo University;

—Nasir Muhammad Amin 'Abdallah, fugitive, 23 years-old, student at the Faculty of Law at Cairo University;

—Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad Rajab, fugitive, 24 years-old, student at the Faculty of Law at Cairo University;

—Muhammad 'Ali 'Amir 'Ali, fugitive, 33 years-old, employee at the Academy of Arts in Al-Haram;

—'Abd al-Qawi 'Ali Agha, 75 years-old, peasant.

The indictment stipulates that during the period from 1983 to 29 May 1987 in the Cairo Governorate:

First: All the defendants except for the last participated in a criminal agreement at the instigation of the first and second defendants, who administered the agreement. It was aimed at committing the crimes of communicating with a foreign state, the Libyan Jamahiriyah; communicating with those who work for it in order to carry out aggressive acts against Egypt and aiming to harm the country's political and economic status as well as its national interests; receiving sums of money and other benefits in order to achieve that goal; and committing the crimes of possessing and making explosives in order to use them in a manner which would jeopardize people's lives and possessions.

In implementation of this agreement, the following crimes took place: They communicated with those working in the service of a foreign country to carry out hostile acts against Egypt, aiming to harm the country's political and economic status and its national interests. They contacted some of those working in the service of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and agreed with them, as well as among themselves, to carry out acts of sabotage inside the country, such as blowing up some foreign-owned properties and installations or those jointly owned with foreigners. To carry this out, some of them traveled to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in groups There they were given military training and instruction in how to carry out acts of sabotage. They were then sent back into the country to carry out their missions.

They acquired and possessed firearms, rifled "pistols" and ammunition without obtaining permits for them. They also acquired and possessed gelignite and TNT, tetryl, Flemant [name as published], and ammonium nitrate before obtaining permits. Their possession of the above explosive materials, weapons, and ammunition was for the purpose of acting against public order and security. They used explosives in a manner jeopardizing the possessions of others in that the third defendant prepared an explosive charge and the first and fourth defendants placed it, after attaching a timing device to it, at the entrance of the International Egypt-America Bank mentioned in the investigations. They, with the exception of the sixth, the seventh, and the last, received money and obtained other benefits from those working for a foreign country to carry out acts harming the country's national interests. They received from the representatives of the Libyan Jamahiriyah intelligence service sums of money and tickets to travel abroad, as well as a quarters allowance for carrying out acts of sabotage inside the country to jeopardize its security and safety.

Second: The first and second defendants founded, established, managed, and set up rules and regulations for an illegal party organization having a quasi-military charter, contrary to the provisions of the law. Thus, they had formed a secret party group opposing the basic principles on which the system of government is based and inciting resistance to the public authorities. Their use of force and violence was noted in their training of the members of the group in the manufacture and use of explosives and firearms.

Third: The third to the fourteenth defendants joined the illegal and quasi-military party and knowingly participated in its activities.

Fourth: The last defendant acquired and kept a rifled firearm, a "pistol," without a license.

Therefore, the abovementioned defendants have committed crimes that are punishable under the provisions of Article 2, 48/1-2-3, 77(B), 77(D), 88/1, 85(A)/(C), 98(A), 98/2-3, 98(E), 102(A), and 102(D) of the Penal Code and the interior minister's Decision No 11 of 1963 defining materials that are considered explosives. They are also punishable under Articles 22/1-2-4 and 23/1 of Law No 40 of 1977 on the Political Parties System, which was later amended under Law No 156 of 1981, Articles 1/1, 6, 26/2-5, and 30 of Law No 394 of 1954 concerning firearms and ammunition, which was amended by Law No 26 of 1978 and Law No 165 of 1981 and paragraph (A) of section one of timetable (3) attached to the first law.

Taking cognizance of Law No 162 of 1958 on the state of emergency, Presidental Decision No 167 of 1986 extending the state of emergency, and Presidential Decision No 1 of 1981 on referring certain crimes to state security courts set up under the state of emergency law, Public Prosecutor Counsellor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi has referred the case to the "emergency" Supreme State Security Court in the area of Cairo Court of Appeal to punish the abovementioned defendants under the provisions cited earlier, to continue the detention of the

1st and 3d defendants, to apprehend the absconding 2d, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th defendants and to place them under precautionary remand.

The evidence for the prosecution was furnished by 11 witnesses, including 8 police officers: Major Hazim Hamadi, Brigadier General Sayyid 'Abd al-Qawi Muhammad 'Amarah, Brigadier General 'Abd al-Rahim 'Abd al-Rahman Malash, Lieutenant Colonel Nabil Jamal Samak, Major 'Ala' al-Din 'Ali Salih, Colonel Muhsin Ahmad Sulayman, First Lieutenant Faraj Habib Faraj Muhammad, and Captain Muhammad Sha'ban Muhammad 'Amirah; and three other witnesses: Majdiu Hasan 'Abd al-Muttalib Shahatah, head of the transfers section in the International Egypt-America Bank; Bahjat Sha'Rawi Philip, manager of a store in Subra; and Fathi 'Abd al-Hamid Sayyid, a merchant.

The prosecution witnesses are unanimous that the defendants constitute an organization based on using force and violence to resist the government of the country. They say this organization also uses Nasirite thought as a basis for its illegal activities and is behind the explosion outside the International Egypt-America Bank on 29 May 1986. The organization uses Nasirite lawyers in the Lawyers Union, the Arab Studies Society at Cairo University, and the Nasirite Socialist Party, which is under formation, as instruments for its ideology, which calls for armed revolutionary struggle against the existing lawful regime.

Their organization is based on a high degree of secrecy and its members have pseudonyms. Their organizational meetings are held in public places in limited numbers. They receive financial aid from the Libyan intelligence organs to fund their activities and purchase the weapons and explosives which were seized.

Some defendants used to travel to Libya via Austria and Yugoslavia with forged visas and were trained in the use and manufacturing of explosives in a Libyan camp in Lebanon.

The witnesses said that last April the defendants monitored the Israeli ambassador's house in Al-Ma'adi to determine the size of his bodyguard and the times of his departure and return home as a step toward assassinating him in accordance with the organization's plan. In April, too, they monitored the bus shuttling between Egypt and Israel to determine the times of its departure and arrival as well as its route so that they could blow it up. They also monitored the places frequented by the Israeli tourist groups in Port Said to blow them up.

The witnesses said the confiscated materials consisted of explosives, grenades, wepons, and some materials used in manufacturing explosives, which the defendants kept in their homes.

Defendant Jamal al-Din Munib Ibrahim Junaydi confessed to the prosecution that he joined an illegal underground organization in 1983. After the ideology, aims, and principles of the organization had been explained to him by 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ali, he agreed to join the organization and chose to be a member of the group led by 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ali. The organization's meetings were held regularly every 15 days to discuss the ideas and aims of the organization, represented by embracing the Nasirite ideology, which is based on three main pillars—socialism, unity, and freedom—which are substantially different from the present ruling regime's practices.

He added that this organization was characterized by the absolute secrecy of all its movements and its members were given pseudonyms. He was called Ahmad 'Atiyah: Ahmad after his son and 'Atiyah after his township. He added that the organization allowed its members to know only as much as necessary and the members were not allowed to know or inquire about anything other than what is revealed under the organization's rules. He added that the members held their organizational meetings at different public places. He said that defendant 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid had seldom asked him to see him in his office. But when such a meeting was necessary, he had to notify 'Abd al-Hamid by telephone first. He said secrecy was so strict that he was fined for revealing his real name to one of the members. The defendant said that the organization has a pyramid structure. The leadership at the peak consists of two men: the first and second defendants. The organization is divided into a group of cells, each headed by a liaison officer. He said the members of his group are Yasir and Shihab (Yasir 'Abd al-Jawad and Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid). He said the discussion during these organizational meetings dealt with the organization's ideology, objectives, methods of asserting its presence in the national arena, recruiting new members, preparing explosive charges, and carrying out assignments. He admitted that he paid 2 percent of his monthly salary as dues to the organization and that he identified several members during his activities for the organization. These were the first and second defendants, whom he mentioned by name, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth defendants, whom he mentioned by their pseudonyms: Mutawalli, Fathi, and Yasir. He identified them during a lineup ordered by the prosecution. He also mentioned the pseudonyms of the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th defendants which are: 'Ala', Sulayman, Shihab, 'Uthman, Samih, Tariq, Hazim, and 'Ali. He gave the full name and address of the last defendant, whom he had known earlier during their political activity at the university.

The defendant confessed that, as part of his organizational activities, he and several members of the organization went to the Libyan Jamahiriyah for technical and military training on how to blow up buildings and installations and prepare explosive charges for this purpose. In this respect, the defendant said that early in October 1985 he was instructed by the defendant 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid to go to Vienna for an undisclosed assignment. He obtained the necessary visas and airline tickets. 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid gave him the necessary funds, some $1,000, to cover the expenses of his stay. An organizational meeting was then convened in the presence of the 1st and 14th defendants. The first defendant told him that the purpose of the trip was to undergo a training course on the preparation and use of explosives. He also told him about the date of his trip and the organization's members he would meet with in Vienna, Austria. The defendant Salah al-Din Dusuqi gave him a telephone number to contact in Vienna if he failed to meet with the other members of the organization. It was the telephone number of Mustafa al-Za'idi, the representative of Libyan intelligence. The defendant indeed left for Athens, and from there went to Vienna, where he met with the defendants Mutawalli, Hazim, and 'Ali (Muhammad 'Awad al-Ghamri, Ahmad Rajab, and Muhammad 'Amir). Mutawalli, who led the group, asked him to obtain a visa to go to Yugoslavia.

They contacted the intelligence services' delegate in Vienna as well as the mechanic Muhammad, who booked the travel tickets aboard the Libyan airline. They also met at Tripoli airport with a Libyan. (Note that he was with them aboard the same plane). The Libyan facilitated procedures at the airport. They also met with a representative of the Libyan intelligence service called 'Abd al-Rahim, who moved them to the Al-Wathbah Al-Thawriyah camp in Tripoli. They spent approximately 1 month in Libya, during which they received training on disassembling and assembling the 9-mm pistol, the Russian-made automatic rifle, and hand grenade 36. They also received some military and combat training in addition to theoretical studies on the Green Book. The defendant in question also asked Libyan officials to train him on how to make an explosive timer that does not produce a distinctive sound. He, along with the organization's members, studied and summarized a military book issued by the Egyptian military academy to its own students on explosives.

At the end of this training course, the Libyan intelligence services stamped his passport and those of the other members of the group with a forged Yugoslav stamp indicating that they had entered Yugoslavia on the date of their travel to the Libyan Jamahiriyah so as to cover the period of their stay there. Following their return from that trip, he submitted a report on it to his organizational senior, the second defendant. The report contained information on the military training and on explosives from the aforementioned book. He added that he considers this trip a failure due to the insufficient military information he obtained. Following his return from Libya, and during April 1986, the second defendant issued an organizational assignment to him to set off an explosion in the U.S. airline company (TWA) and entrusted him with inspecting it. On the following day, he met with the 1st and 14th defendants. They inspected the company's location, its security, and traffic intensity. This surveillance of the company's location was repeated and included other companies—the British airline company, the Thomas Cook Bank, and the International Egypt-America Bank—with the participation of the 2d, 4th, 7th, 9th, and 13th defendants at various times. When a decision was made to fix the date and place of the operation as well as to define the roles of those taking part in it, the defendants specified the British airline company, the International Egypt-America Bank, the U.S. airline company (TWA), and the Thomas Cook Bank.

'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid entrusted him with preparing a number of bombs for this purpose. He prepared five bombs with various sizes. On 29 May 1986, the day set for implementation, the members participating in the operation called on him and accompanied him to the set targets. He, along with the 13th defendant, placed a charge opposite the airline company (TWA). The 2d and 14th defendants placed a similar charge opposite the British airline company. The first and fourth defendants placed a charge opposite the America bank [as published], while the seventh and ninth defendants placed a charge opposite the Thomas Cook Bank. The explosions were set for the same time, Al-Iftar [breaking the fast], in the month of Ramadan. Afterward, they met at a restaurant (Wimpey's) in Al-Jizah for an Al-Iftar meal. He learned that Ahmad al-Sawi and Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid had not placed their bomb, and received it from them. They received instructions not to meet in the coming period.

The defendant said that in September 1986, he was instructed by the defendant 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid to prepare his travel documents to leave for Libya once again. He also gave him the necessary funds. The defendant said that as instructed, he left for Budapest, Hungary, where he waited for a few days until he was joined by the 2d, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th defendants. The defendant, 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid, then obtained tickets for them to travel to Libya via Libyan Airlines. Upon their arrival in Tripoli, they were met by representatives of Libyan intelligence, who kept Libyan entry stamps from being put in their passports. They then took them to Al-Wathbah Al-Thawriyah camp, where they received military training on dismantling and assembling firearms and their use, as well as on various types of detonators, fuses, and explosive charges. The Libyan, Mustafa al-Za'idi, visited them several times and met with 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid.

The Libyan authorities then prepared Libyan passports for five members, whom 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid had chosen, to travel to Syria and Lebanon. They were the 4th, 11th, 12th, and 13th defendants. These members actually left for Syria aboard a Libyan Airlines plane accompanied by a representative of Libyan intelligence. The defendant said that before their departure from Tripoli airport, defendant Muhammad 'Awad al-Ghamri gave him $500 in travelers checks to spend during his trip. He assumed that Al-Ghamri gave similar amounts to the other members because he saw them carrying travelers checks.

The defendant added that they spent some time in Damascus awaiting instructions to leave for Al-Biqa' valley in Lebanon. They then left for Al-Biqa' and stayed at a PFLP camp in Shtawrah. He said they received theoretical and practical military training there on all types of explosives as well as on the preparation of all kinds of detonators and fuses. They also received training in the use of firearms (pistols and automatic rifles) and took lessons in firing. They received training on security—observation and detection, including how to avoid detection. He said that 10 days later they returned to Libya, where the Libyan authorities took the Libyan passports from them and gave them their original passports after stamping them with a false Yugoslav stamp. The defendant said he objected having this stamp in his passport again for fear that he might be detected upon his return to Cairo. The defendant said that after his return, he submitted a report on his trip to the defendant, 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid. He said he also held several meetings with 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid and discussed the possibility of carrying out several tests of explosive charges that he had obtained from a Sinai mine field. The defendant said 'Abd al-Hamid instructed him and his colleagues to prepare a program for these tests to apply the theoretical and practical training they had received in Lebanon. The defendant said he promised to do so within 1 week. The defendant added that in accordance with this agreement, he bought the materials to be used in these tests from the Army Street area. These materials included: pure ammonium nitrates, aluminum filings, mercury, nitric acid, and white alcohol. The defendant said he could not buy potassium chlorate because the shopkeeper refused to sell it without prior police permission.

He actually managed to prepare mercury filaments [filaminat al-zi'baq] which are used in manufacturing detonators. He then produced a complete detonator from paper, a piece of soap, and electric wire, and aluminum wire, and mercury filaments. He tested it successfully and passed this information on to the second defendant. He added that, accompanied by the second defendant, he rented one of the Kimo Land [name as published] chalets in the city of Fayid in his name for 2 days. The second defendant instructed him to bring the members of the organization to that place. He went to Cairo railway station where he met with the rest of the organization's members. These carried the pseudonyms of Sulayman, Hazim, Samih, and Yasir (Muhammad Sha'ban, Ahmad Rajab, Mustafa Yasin, and Yasir 'Abd al-Jawad). He took them in his car to the chalet where they met with Tariq, Fathi, Shihab, and 'Uthman (Nasir Amin, Hafiz al-Sayyid Sa'dah, Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid, and Ahmad 'Abd al-Mu'ti). A training course was given to review the technical information they had received in Libya about all types of explosives and detonators. He explained things and answered inquiries and carried out a practical test on the way to produce the detonator locally by using the mercury filaments which they prepared.

Next day the first defendant arrived and the second defendant introduced him to those present under a pseudonym which he did not remember. He came to meet the others and become acquainted with the information. He added that a similar, smaller course was later held in the chalet area in the city of Fayid. It was attended by Hazim, Samih, 'Uthman, Shihab, Yasir, Fathi, and Tariq upon the organizational instructions of defendant 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid. During this course, he explained the explosive circuits to the other members.

For training in the use of explosives, the defendant confessed that he and several other members of the organization carried out several tests. In one of these tests he participated with the second, sixth, and ninth defendants in showing how an explosion could be triggered by a remote-control device in a car on the side of the road. This test was preceded by two other successful tests at the 29 km milestone on the Cairo-Suez road and on the Cairo-Ismailia desert road, 20 km from the city of 10 Ramadan. He also said he carried out another successful test on the Cairo-Suez desert road by directing the explosive charge in one direction. He was helped by a person whom he could not identify because he did not see him again, as he accompanied him only upon the instructions of the second defendant.

He also confessed to having carried out other tests at the 59 km milestone on the Cairo-Suez desert road in the company of the 11th and 12th defendants to produce a substance from aluminum nitrate mixed with other materials and to test their store of explosives. The defendant explained that to carry out their terrorist operations, he, accompanied by the second defendant, headed for the city of 15 May in Hulwan. They met with someone who worked on the projects being implemented in the city. They purchased from him a quantity of explosives and filaments, some of which were seized in their possession, for a sum of 110 pounds. Afterward, the defendant left for the same city and awaited the workers' departure. He took the explosives and filaments that the workers left behind, including the gelignite that was seized in his possession. He also admitted that he went to the Sinai minefield zone in which he worked, from which he obtained mines, some of which were seized in his possession. He extracted the explosives from these mines for use in terrorist activities.

He added that the second defendant asked him to purchase a pistol, seized in his possession, to use on the organizational level. He purchased it from defendant 'Abd al-Qawi 'Ali Agha. The defendant added that he received an organizational assignment from the second defendant to travel to Aswan accompanied by the 14th defendant, whose pseudonym is 'Ali, without being told the reason. However, he noted that the latter monitored the police stations on the Al-Wahat-Asyut road. When he requested clarification on this, he was told that the second defendant had asked him to select uninhabited places to train members in explosives. He admitted that following their return the second defendant discussed with him his own remarks about the Asyut-al-Wahat, Asyut-Abu Sunbul, and Aswan-Abu Sunbul roads in accordance with a report submitted to him by the 14th defendant. He added that the second defendant asked him to conduct numerous inspections in order to serve the organization's activities, including the surveillance of the Israeli bus route between Cairo and Israel in an attempt to blow up the bus. In this regard, he made approximately eight surveillance trips of the bus' departures and arrivals, accompanied by the 2d, 5th, 6th, 9th, and 13th defendants, aiming to define its course, speed, and the time it passed by certain areas specified for implementation 6 months later.

The defendant also decided to conduct surveillance trips to the areas in which Israeli tourists are present in Sinai as part of the organization's scheme to carry out terrorist operations in the country. The second defendant issued an organizational assignment to him to go to the areas of Nuwaybi' and Mount Catherine, accompanied by the 14th defendnat, to define the areas in which Israeli tourists are present. He, however, could not distinguish them from other tourists visiting these areas. The defendant admitted the possession of all material seized during the search of his residence in Cairo and in the Al-Buhayrah Governorate, as well as his office in Ramsis Street in Cairo.

During a photographed reenactment of events, the third defendant guided the public prosecution to the places from which he acquired the explosives and explained the tests he carried out on the way to use and develop them effectively as follows:

The defendant guided the prosecution to a desert area about 2 km opposite the 30 km milestone on the side of the Cairo-Suez road in the direction of Suez. He said he carried out a successful test on explosives in this area about 10 days before he was arrested. He said he placed the explosive charge on a rock below a specified sandhill. After hearing the explosion he went to the scene of the explosion and took the timer used in the test. The prosecution retained as evidence the rock and some wires found near it.

The second defendant guided the prosecution to a desert area some 4 km from Cairo on the left-hand side of the highway leading to the city of 15 Mayu. From traces found there it was evident that the area had been the scene of explosions intending to level the hilly ground. Some wires were found as well as a cardboard box containing a small quantity of an explosive material, which the defendant said was similar to the explosives found in his possession. He explained how he obtained the explosives from this area. He said he would wait until the workers had gone and then swipe what was left of the explosives and fuses. He also confessed to having obtained the sticks of dynamite which were in his possession from this area. The above wires and box were impounded and sent to the forensic laboratory. The laboratory report in this regard notes that the material found in the box is ammonium powder dynamite, of the type produced by the Egyptian war industry factories and the Abu Zabal Chemicals Company. It is similar to the dynamite found in the defendant's possession. It was also found that the wires include electric wires similar to the ones found on the Cairo-Suez desert highway. Some of the fuses are unlike the detonating devices found in the defendant's possession.

The defendent informed the security men of a desert area near the 28 km milestone on the Cairo-Ismailiyah desert highway in which an overturned car was found. He said that he used this car in a detonation process using a remote control device which was found in his residence. He was assisted by the second, sixth, and ninth defendants. He explained their roles and the experiment step by step. Investigation showed cracks and several tears in the spot in which the defendant said he placed the explosives. Several small pieces of black plastic material were also found, which the defendant said resulted from the explosion. Three pieces of wire of different colors and length were found.

The information given by the defendant and the reenactment of his crimes were recorded by audio and video and the videotapes were attached to the investigation reports.

During interrogations, Muhammad Hamid Muhammad Yusuf said that during the first half of 1986 he worked for his maternal cousin, the third defendant, as a technician in the Japanese Maintenance Center. While working there, the third defendant asked him to design a thermostat circuit connected with a timer. To his surprise, the third defendant brought him some materials and asked him to implement the scheme by replacing the thermostat with a copper pipe, in which he placed a quantity of gunpowder which he obtained from a round of ammunition with an insulated cover. He asked him to connect all this with small "Eveready" batteries. The next morning, he discovered that the third defendant had collected the circuit, placed it in an iron case, and poured on it a brown-colored material. The third defendant then asked Muhammad Hamid to rivet it. After a short period of time, Muhammad Hamid read in the papers about an explosion in central Cairo. That day, the third defendant arrived at the maintenance center at an unusually early hour. With the assistance of his workers, he cleaned the iron pot he employed to melt the brown material he used in the above circuit. This made Muhammad Hamid doubt his motives. He added that the photograph by the forensic laboratory of the explosive device used in the International Egypt-American Bank incident shows that it is the one which he and the third defendant had made. He said the defendant embraces the Nasirite ideology and he offered him an opportuniy to join the Nasirite Party, which was being established, but he refused. He said the defendant traveled much outside the country and used to meet people in the center after dismissing the workers.

The third defendant's maintenance center and house in the Cairo Governorate were searched and large quantities of TNT were found. The explosives were ready for detonation and connected to handmade detonators. Charges made of metal sheets and glass were filled with liquid TNT. Some of them were connected with detonators. A pot containing traces of TNT was also found along with other bottles containing chemical acids used for the manufacture of explosives. Also found were more than 200 electric, thermal, and mechanical detonators; full-length rolls of detonating wire; a quantity of ammunition, mines, a hand grenade, and a firearm (pistol); a remote control device; groups of batteries connected to produce electricity; a square, empty calendar box; and iron probes. The defendant's residence in the Al-Buhayrah Governorate was also searched and a quantity of explosives, iron probes, and a bomb-like metalic mass were impounded.

The defendant confessed to having possessed the above impounded materials; using the probes to locate and uncover mines and exploit the explosives they contain; and making the explosive charges which he guided the police to discover.

In the interrogation, the defendant's father, Munib Ibrahim Junaydi, identified the above materials which were found during a search of his house and a poultry farm attached to another house belonging to the defendant in the Al-Buhayrah Governorate. He said the defendant warned him that these materials should not be exposed to sources of heat.

The criminal laboratory report and the explosives experts who examined the impounded materials stated the following:

A) The ammunition and weapons are serviceable and all seized explosives are made from highly explosive substances whose possession requires an advance permit from the competent security quarters.

B) The confiscated mercury filaments were highly explosive and were prepared manually, something which indicates that the one who possessed them had received laboratory training on the way to prepare them. Also the condition in which they were found indicates that the one who prepared them had special experience because he preserved them in a scientific way conforming with the sensitivity of this highly explosive material.

C) The seized detectors are similar to those used in detecting and dismantling mines.

D) The hand-made explosives are serviceable and equipped to detonate the explosive charges. They were prepared by using tetryl.

E) The electric detonators are intact and similar to the type manufactured abroad. They are characterized by their highly explosive power. More than 200 detonators in packed cans were seized, something which rules out the possibility of their being leftover quarry explosives. This refutes the defendant's allegation during investigation that they were quarry leftovers.

F) The seized explosive cords were in large quantities and in full lengths. They are used in detonating explosive charges and are prepared from explosives whose possession requires an advance license. The fact that they were in large quantitity and in full length makes it impossible to claim that they were leftovers from mountain quarry explosions.

G) The seized remote-control device was prepared to be used in wireless detonation operations.

H) Some of the seized TNT has been molten and poured into containers and bottles and prepared to be used as highly explosive bombs.

I) The seized fully equipped explosive charges were intact and very similar to the explosive charge detonated in front of the International Egypt-America Bank storehouse, and in the following manner:

1. The electric voltage sets that were prepared to be used in explosion operations were similar in quality and method of preparation to those used in the explosive charge detonated in front of the International Egypt-America Bank storehouse.

2. The timer is similar in quality, country of origin, and serial number to the equipment found in the possession of the defendant.

3. The metal sheets used in packing the explosive charge were of a similar quality.

4. The explosive devices and their parts were welded in a similar manner.

5. The explosive substance, which is molten TNT, was of a similar qualilty and was both prepared and packed in the same manner.

Quantities of ammunition of various calibers and two projectiles were impounded from the first defendant's house. The criminal laboratory report mentions that part of this ammunition is of the type that is used in antiaircraft guns and automatic weapons and that the two projectiles are of the very explosive type and produce splinters. The report adds that all this ammunition is serviceable.

The search of the second defendant's office resulted in the impoundment of the following documents:

A. Several xeroxed documents on how to carry out organizational work, select cadres, and run operations and a series of instructions on how to secure secret activities; the organization's cells; and contacts to be made by the members of these cells and the methods with which to confront the investigators, the security organs, and the courts in their proceedings against the members of these groups. The documents also explain the groupings ideology, plans, and the need to prepare and train cadres to carry out continuous revolutionary operations until a single Arab state based on Nasirite and pan-Arab ideology is established.

B. Several books calling for adopting an armed revolutionary policy, the basis of the group's ideology. Some of the books deal with preparing explosives and methods of training in the use of various firearms. Another book deals with how to form and run revolutionary groups.

C. Ciphered organizational papers using symbols and letters about appointments among the group's members in a chalet in the city of Fayid.

D. A large number of cassette recordings of persons advocating Nasirism, discussing its effect on popular revolutions in various countries, and calling for revolutionary operations to establish a single Arab state with an ideology based on pan-Arab Nasirite ideology. The cassette recordings call for armed commando operations against U.S.-Israeli interests in affirmation and implementation of Nasirite ideology in this respect. The cassette recordings also contain excerpts from Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir's speeches and songs calling for socialism and Arab unity.

E. Eleven typewriters, 1 photocpying machine, 1 film developing machine and its instruments, and 2 battery-operated microphones.

As a result of the search of the office and house of the fourth defendant, a large number of original and xeroxed documents as well as leaflets and statements were impounded. These documents advocate the group's ideology, which is inspired by Nasirism and pan-Arab ideology and includes carrying out acts of violence against the present regime on the pretext of establishing the single Arab state. These documents and leaflets also call for dealing armed blows to the Israeli presence in the country as one of the expressions of their rejection of the Camp David accords, peace, and the normalization of relations with Israel. The impounded material also comprise a document signed by the fifth defendant calling for the same ideology as that championed by the group and mentioning the existence of a committee tasked with confronting Zionism and calling for violent operations against the manifestations of the normalization of relations with Israel.

Upon the search of the fifth defendant's house, leaflets advocating Nasirite ideology and the Nasirites' stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict over Palestine were seized. They also spoke about the establishment of a single Arab state according to the pan-Arab concept of Nasirism, which is called for by the organization.

Several original and xeroxed papers and statements were seized in the sixth defendant's office. These dealt with the organization's ideology and its propagation. They also stressed the need to undertake an organizational revolutionary action against the present regime and its policy because of its departure from the Nasirite ideology and the socialist and pan-Arab laws and ideology. These papers also called for an armed organizational action against the Israeli presence and U.S. interests in the country. Some of the originals of these xeroxed papers were found in the fourth defendant's office. The materials confiscated with this defendant included a card with the name of the owner of the chalets in which the organizational meetings and training courses were held in the city of Fayid.

Several leaflets were also seized in the ninth defendant's office. They advocated the organization's revolutionary ideology and stated that the organization should undertake an armed revolutionary action against the present regime as the security organs are preoccupied in several cases, including the opening of the opera "Aida."

Documents containing some names in a structured list and giving the names of some residential areas and some of the organization's officials and elements were found in the 11th defendant's house. These names begin with the Hulwan area and the one responsible for it, that is, the 12th defendant. They finish with an unspecified area entrusted to a person called Badr. They also give the names of this organization's officials in the Cairo University Faculties of Information, Law, Literature, Commerce, Arts, and Agriculture. These included his name and the name of the 12th absconding defendant in their capacity as the two responsible for organization at the Faculty of Law. They also included the names of the second, fourth, and sixth defendants. A diary giving the names of some defendants opposite figures of sums of money ranging between 1 and 20 pounds as well as some leaflets advocating the revolutionary Nasirite ideology, attacking the present regime, and stating that a Nasirite revolution is coming was also seized.

A number of papers and leaflets containing the organization's Nasirite ideology were found in the 13th defendant's resident. They call for propagating this ideology and confronting the U.S.-Israeli presence in the Arab region. They also include papers dealing with the second defendant's electoral campaign, his ideology, and an airplane ticket for a Hungarian company (Maliv) to which number "13 C" was affixed.

Travelers checks issued by a foreign bank in the name of the defendant and amounting to U.S. $2,500, in addition to U.S. $50, put in an envelope on which the name of the fourth defendant was written were found in the second defendant's office. Also found in the first defendant's office were 19 travelers checks issued by a foreign bank in Greece and ammounting to U.S. $1,900. Also found were $2,078; 263 Yemeni riyals; 150 Hungarian forints, 3,070 Austrian schillings, 240 Moroccan dirhams, 10 Yugoslav dinars, and other cash.

The information in a letter sent by the Travel Document, Emigration, and Nationality Department—revealing the defendants' movements, their departure times, and the place they were coming from—is identical to the third defendant's testimony during the investigation with regard to the defendants' departure times and their destinations. The information and investigation indicated that the defendants believe in the Nasirite ideology and adopt revolutionary violence as a means of obtaining power. They also indicated that they are organized elements trained to use weapons and explosives, that they prepared explosive charges that went off in the International Egypt-America Bank storeroom, and that they planned similar operations using the explosives they own and have obtained. The pseudonyms reported by the third defendant, namely, 'Umar, Sa'id, Ahmad, 'Atiyah, Mitwalli, Fathi, Shadi, 'Ala', Sulayman, Shihab, 'Uthman, Samih, Tariq, and Samih are the pseudonyms of the defendants 1 to 14 respectively.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Current Issues

LD281429 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Yesterday, French television's Channel Five carried an interview with the brother leader of the revolution, which it relayed live from Tripoli during its main newscast.

During the interview, which was transmitted via satellite, the brother leader answered questions on important current Arab and international events.

The brother leader of the revolution emphasized at the start of the interview that the Great Jamahiriyah will spare no effort in assisting in the release of the hostages in Lebanon. He said that the Great Jamahiriyah received with pleasure the news of the release yesterday—Friday—of the Frenchmen who had been taken hostage in Lebanon.

The leader affirmed that we condemn the kidnapping of innocent hostages; we have no information about these operations. We have not interfered in this matter in the past, but if we do interfere we will do all that is in our power.

The brother leader of the revolution said that the question of restoring peace in the Chadian region is normally and necessarily related to national reconciliation between the Chadians; this is the only solution. Without the withdrawal of the French and U.S. forces from Chad and national reconciliation between the People's Armed Forces and FANT there will be no solution, no stability, and no peace. Both national reconciliation and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Chad must take place.

The brother leader stressed in his reply to a question on the possibility of meeting Habre in Paris to establish peace that we will not withhold any effort in order to achieve national reconciliation and peace in Chad.

Responding to a question on the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit and the Libyan interest in rapprochement with Europe, particularly with regard to security in the Middle East, the brother leader of the revolution said: I am delighted with the agreement reached on the dismantling of missiles, the total destruction of nuclear arms, complete disarmament, withdrawal of their armies, and the establishement of peace. However, it is the small countries who are currently paying. When there is detente between the superpowers, they begin a rivalry over the small countries. I am afraid that after this meeting something will take place at the expense of the small countries, and that there could be a confrontation between Libya and the United States when it secures peace with the Soviet side. My people, the Sudanese, and the Angolan people might pay for the agreement between the superpowers. Concord between the superpowers takes place without concord between the other countries. It is a restricted summit. We should all take part in it so that the agreement becomes collective.

Answering a question on Libya's aid to the Irish army, the brother leader said: I have heard rumors. However, the struggle in Northern Ireland is historical and just; I believe the Irish cause is just and the British occupation is not. The world cannot be occupied for religious reasons, because there are Protestants in Northern Ireland, for example. I categorically reject the division of the world upon religious bases. For me Ireland is Ireland and Britain is Britain. I consider the Irish cause to be just; I support it and the Irish people's self-defense. This cause concerns only them. Britain is paying the price for its aggression against other people, including the Libyan people and the Palestinian people, and for its occupation of Northern Ireland. It seems that Britain has yet to learn a lesson and it is driving people to believing in violence.

The brother leader added: I support this cause because it is a just one. The use of violence by the Irish is, however, a matter which began before the Libyan revolution; it is choice made by people who are colonized by Britain. I am, therefore, not going to interfere in such a matter. The Irish were using violence before the revolution in Libya.

With regard to a question on New Caledonia and Corsica, the brother leader stated that the French presence in New Caledonia is colonialism, as is what is taking place in Mayotte, Chad, Central Africa, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast. This French colonialism reveals France's ugly face to the world, which denounces neocolonialism. It is similar to what used to exist in the Middle Ages. France should lift its hand from the world's people.

Concerning Corsica, I believe that it has been French; the Corsicans believe that they are separatists who are fighting for independence. The future will determine France's stance vis-a-vis the cause of the independence of people.

As for Tunisia, the brother leader said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is his friend. Responding to a question on fundamentalism, the leader stated that the problem is deeper than this. Europe attacks the Middle East, the Arab region, and the Third World, and it protects the terrorists who seek refuge in Europe. Europe should shoulder responsibility for the terrorists targeted against us because the issue is not one of fundamentalism as much as it is related to the fact that Europe has embroiled itself in our problems. To avoid these problems Europe should hand over the terrorists wanted by Interpol to their countries. Proof is shown by the fact that Libyans and Syrians find refuge in Europe and France. I expect more violence in the West because of its interference in our internal problems. We should face one another and find solutions. Even the hostage issue in Lebanon would not exist had it not been for the West's interference in our problems.

We should meet and put an end to violence. France should withdraw from its colonies in Chad, Mayotte, New Caledonia, and Reunion, because the French people will pay dearly for the continuation of this colonialist policy.

The leader asserted that rumors that Libya is preparing for an attack on Chad are fabricated by France to cause confrontation between weak countries proceeding from the "divide and conquer" principle.

The leader added that there are no problems between the Libyans and Chadians; there is no one as close to the Chadians as the Libyans, and even if there were, it would not be the French. The Libyan and Chadian people are linked by history and geography; they are in need of peace, not war. Libya has not in the past waged war on Chad. France got involved in the war between the Chadians themselves.

Libya is now within its international borders, it wants a complete cessation of the war between the Chadian brothers, and it is trying its best to contribute to reconciliaiton between the Chadians. The problem is an internal and tribal one. The heart of the matter is either a national reconciliation or an endless war, as the struggle will continue between other tribes and factions. Libya even welcomes international observers from the United Nations to see what is happening in Chad. There is no reason for waging a war on Chad; the whole matter is merely a French-U.S. conspiracy.

The brother leader concluded his interview by stressing that the Libyan Arab people live better than the French; the Libyans are not anxious about their future. As far as I am concerned, I have no authority or power; I am not at all in power. I am not a president of a republic, a head of state, or a prime minister. I have no administrative power and the question is not whether I am going to live or die. You Europeans, Atlantists, and Americans made an attempt on my life. However, the excellent French posture delayed that attempt by delaying [U.S.] aircraft for 4 or 2 hours. In any case, I was not hurt.

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Chad

LD300939 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Nov (JANA)—A spokesman at the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has made the following statement:

Ndjamena radio has once more, and definitely not for the last time, resorted to fabricating lies and incidents in a desperate attempt to cover up the truth about the internal struggle which has been afflicting the authority in the Chadian capital.

In this context Ndjamena radio reported that battles raged on Friday in eastern Chad, in which the so-called Islamic Brigade of Libya participated. It related stories which are a product of the Ndjamena clique's imaginative attempt to cover up the crisis it is experiencing. It is so easy for the Ndjamena clique in such circumstances to blame Libya for everything that takes place in Chad, even if it is mere fantasy.

The facts which neither Ndjamena nor any neutral observer can deny are:

1. Libya is not responsible for the fighting among the Chadians. The fighting is not new, and neither Ndjamena nor those who support it can conceal its causes.

2. The fighting between the People's Armed Forces and the Northern Armed Forces has never stopped. The Hadjarai tribe has declared rebellion against agent Habre, who cannot deny the reason for its rebellion, which is to avenge the killing of Idris Miskin. He also cannot deny that the Kreda and Slemat tribes have rejected the authority of Ndjamena for the same reasons—a fact which proves that Habre belongs to a racial minority and represents a political group around which or through which no Chadian rally can exist.

3. In accordance with its past declarations, Libya denies all responsibility for the inter-Chadian fighting and has, as it has stated, closed the Chad file and has left Chad to the Chadians.

By resorting to such lies Ndjamena aims to undermine the OAU efforts, to obstruct the work of the Good Offices' Committee, and to create favorable conditions for a new aggression by the United States and its allies against Jamahiriyah territory.

Paper Views 'Guerrilla' Hang Glider Incident

LD272316 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 27, *Jamahiriyah News Agency—Al-Jamahiriyah* weekly newspaper out today commented on the daring guerrilla operation carried out by a hero of the Arab resistance inside the occupied territories.

In an article titled: "A Guerrilla Penetrates the Official Cowardice", the paper said: "This operation proved in a way that does not leave room for doubt that the security belt the Zionist territories had built their defence logic on after withdrawing from Lebanon under the intensified pressure of the Arab guerrilla operations, is nothing but a myth".

Adding: "Such [a] suicide guerrilla act of martyrdom led and carried out by an angry Arab youth rejecting the new Arab generation, had exposed the Zionist defence strategy".

It asserted that the Zionist gangs are just a "cartoon" institution built on terror, killing and destruction.

The weekly said that such operation has confirmed a scientific and historical fact—the Arab conflict with the Zionists is a conflict for existence and not conflict about borders and that the Zionists, if they wanted to save their skins from death, they have to take out their luggage and return to their countries of origin and leave Palestine to its Arabs.

The newspaper concluded by saying: "The angry Arab guerrilla, who attacked a Zionist military base in northern Palestine using his hang-glider, has burnt the credentials of the [word indistinct] and the symbols of defeatism. Guards of the Zionist enemy, carriers of U.S. orders and panting hastily to the stables forgetting and trying to ignore the executed Al-Sadat's fate who had signed with and shaken hands with the Zionist. [sentence as received] His fate was a lesson to whoever has any concept for lessons. He was bodily liquidated for his treason in broad daylight and in front of his masters, those of the same stable and players for him on the cord of defeatism".

Mauritania

Taya Address Marks National Day, Notes Coup Try

AB272123 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Address by President Taya to the nation on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of National Day in Nouakchott on 27 November—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dear fellow countrymen, tomorrow, 28 November, will be the 27th anniversary of the day on which our country achieved its national and international sovereignty. On this solemn occasion, which you will celebrate with happiness and pride, I call on you to redouble civic efforts and to strengthen cohesion and solidarity. This is to safeguard and consolidate what our country has achieved. It is on this basis that we will be able to build a powerful state, a fair and lawful state that guarantees individual and collective freedoms, an Islamic state where a fair and fraternal society with its own values can blossom in mutual assistance and tolerance.

The national leadership has struggled vigorously and persistently to attain the national comprehensive recovery program launched on 12 December 1984. Our achievements in the economic and financial sector, and our efforts to improve our relations with other countries, and to restore the country's credibility at home and abroad, have thus vindicated the reasons behind our moves. These will, therefore, be increasingly strengthened.

[Words indistinct] as long as we had not truly and profoundly altered our mentality. We must forever be rid of the negative impression that many people have of the state. These persons consider it to be an exogenous entity. We must become aware of our pitiful condition and of our interest and [word indistinct]. We must be more vigilant toward the antinationals, the troublemakers, the dishonest people, and those who allowed state property—which belongs to all the people—to fall into ruin. National interest should thus prevail over personal interest.

Finally, and particularly, our duty is to strongly and persistently combat the enemies and detractors of our national unity. By doing so, we will be conforming not only to our laws and regulations, but also acting in accordance with the teachings and precepts of our holy religion, Islam. We will therefore contribute decisively to the greatness, the progress, and the prosperity of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will recall that last month, a group of officers and junior officers who enjoyed total confidence and whose role should have been to defend the state, instead embarked upon an unprecedented adventure. Its likes have never been seen in the history of our country, nor in Africa. In fact, the intent of these conspirators was to topple the ruling regime, to kill innocent citizens, and to spread disorder across the country. This group did not at all consider the interest and the reality of our people. It was rather [words indistinct] to the external model and ties. It additionally had nothing to offer our people other than bloodshed and destruction. Those involved [words indistinct]. In such a situation, the state will fulfill all its responsibilities and will continue to take strict measures to ensure order and respect for laws and regulations. My dear countrymen [words indistinct] but with the help of the Almighty Allah, through our patriotism and our commitment, and through our collective and firm desire to make our country attain an era of progress, peace, and freedom, our people will each day take a new step on their way to achieving emancipation. Finally, I wish you a happy celebration. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Tunisian Prime Minister Begins Visit

LD281821 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Morocco this morning bringing a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to King Hassan II. Our correspondent in Fes reports: Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived at Fes-Sais International Airport this morning. He is bringing a message to King Hassan II from his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Baccouche was welcomed at the airport by his Moroccan counterpart, Azzedine Laraki, and the representative of the king, Moulay Mehdi Alaoui Mrani.

The Tunisian prime minister gave the following statement at the airport's VIP lounge:

[Begin recording] In response to the need for talks and dialogue among brothers, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has asked me to convey his greetings to his brother, King Hassan II, son of the late King Mohamed V, may God bless his soul. I take this opportunity to express the greetings of the Tunisian president, the government, and the people to King Hassan II and to the fraternal Moroccan people.

These visits help bolster bilateral relations that are rooted in history and that should be developed to benefit the two countries involved. From an Arab, religious, linguistic, and cultural point of view, we form a single nation. In the statement of 7 November, the president of the Republic affirmed the need to construct the Arab Maghreb. Morocco constitutes a principal and vital part of the Arab Maghreb, along with Algeria, Tunisia, and all other parts of the greater Arab Maghreb. [end recording]

Reviews Talks, Departs

LD282309 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche at the royal palace in Ifrane today at noon. He met with Baccouche before his brief visit to Morocco ended. The Tunisian foreign minister made the following statement before boarding his aircraft:

[Begin recording] I had the pleasure of meeting with His Majesty King Hassan II today. I brought a message from his brother, His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic. We discussed bilateral relations and ways of consolidating them. [passage indistinct] We examined ways of overcoming difficulties that might prevent the start of building Maghreb integration and the Maghreb itself. [passage indistinct]

We additionally reviewed bilateral relations, Maghreb solidarity, and our relations with the Arab world [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The Tunisian prime minister was seen off at Fes-Sais International Airport by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki, Fes Governor Moulay al-Mahdi al-Alaoui, [name indistinct], and other officials.

UN Sahara Mission Arrives in Boujdour

LD291800 Rabat Domestic Service inArabic1600 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] The UN technical mission charged with gathering information on the Sahara arrived in the town of Boujdour at 1130 today. They had come from the town of El Aioun. The mission, which was accompanied on its arrival by Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, was welcomed by Rachid Douweihi, his majesty's governor in the Boujdour region.

During its stay in Boujdour, the UN mission will collect technical information on the historical and contemporary reality of the Sahara. It will also make field visits to economic and social installations that have been established in the region.

During their reception of the UN mission, the inhabitants of the Boujdour region reaffirmed their attachment to an affiliation with Morocco, as well as their adherence to their legal authority. This authority had been confirmed before them, their fathers, and their forefathers throughout the eras of history, through contacts of allegiance to the sultans of the Moroccan state.

Sudan

Army Currently Seeking 'To Recapture' Kurmuk

NC291815 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 29 (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces are now trying to recapture Kurmuk city, south east of Sudan, near the Ethiopian border, an official source said.

The source told MENA that rebel leader John Garang does not represent a real danger to Sudan, but the danger comes from the foreign powers which are standing behind him and financing him to strike Sudan and hinder its progress.

Al-Mirghani Urges 'Vigilance'

JN281132 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister, have delivered two important nationwide addresses. These speeches were made at celebrations organized by the Armed Forces to mark the Sudanese Martyrs Day and a general mobilization against foreign interference.

In his speech, the chairman of the State Council noted that a directive has been issued to inform the UN secretary general, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, and the OAU of Ethiopian aggression against Sudan. Al-Mirghani declared that this interference constitutes an open and flagrant violation of all international conventions and norms, as well as the UN Charter. He announced the start of a general mobilization effort to strengthen the internal front to face challenges and dangers, and to defeat the external Ethiopian aggression. Al-Mirghani also called for citizens to support the Armed Forces.

The chairman of the State Council noted that this naked, treacherous aggression against Sudan, after being launched by foreign forces to aid the rebel movement, poses a real threat to the homeland and its territorial integrity. Al-Mirghani urged all Sudanese political and trade union forces and other popular groups and individuals to rally to the mobilization call. This will present a wide front to shield Sudanese national security. He urged increased vigilance at a time when the enemies of the nation lie in wait to employ treachery and treason to strike at the unity of Sudan. The chairman of the State Council emphasized that the Sudanese people are capable of turning any act of aggression into ruin, shame, and loss for its perpetrators.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Cancels Visit to Ethiopia

JN281759 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has decided to cancel his scheduled visit to Ethiopia. He also decided to appoint Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply, and who is currently in Ethiopia, to lead the Sudanese delegation to the extraordinary African summit on foreign debt. This conference will open on Monday.

A statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers attributed this decision to the deteriorating relations between Sudan and neighboring Ethiopia, which participated in the aggression against Sudanese national security. The General Secretariat stressed that Sudan would continue to play its expected role in formulating a unified African position on foreign debts. It also urged the African community to denounce all acts undertaken by its members that contravene the OAU Charter. This document stipulates respect for the sovereignty of member countries. The statement issued by the General Secretariat added that this body will work to transfer the OAU Headquarters to a country that respects the Organization's Charter.

Tunisia

Court Confirms Islamic Tendency Sentences

LD281846 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The State Security Court held a public session this afternoon. It proceeded under the presidency of Hachemi Zammel, with Vice Presidents Ali Chennaoui and Mbarek Zargouni and Chamber of Deputies Representative Khalid Chaabani in attendance. After almost 7 hours of deliberations, the court announced the sentences of the 13 defendants who had appealed against the verdicts they received in absentia on 28 September in the case of the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement.

The court confirmed the sentences passed, with the exception of the verdicts affecting Ajmi Ourimi and Karim Harouni. The sentences were as follows:

Ali Arid: death by hanging.

Fadhel Beldi: life imprisonment at hard labor.

Ziyad Douletli: 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Mohamed Trabelsi: 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Ali Zaroui: 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Oualid Bennani: 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Mohammed Chemmam: 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Chokri Bahria: 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Salah Boughanmi: 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Abdelmajid Zar: 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Abdelkader Abbas, alias Jedidi: 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Ajmi Ourimi: 5 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Karim Harouni: 5 years' imprisonment at hard labor

The last two defendants cited were previously sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

The court decided to place those sentenced to hard labor under administrative supervision for 10 years.

Ben Ali Calls for Repeal of Court, Prosecutor

LD291422 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] The president of the Republic has issued the following statement:

In instituting the provisions of the statement of 7 November 1987, our desire to consolidate the state of law and justice, to bolster decentralization, and to bring the citizens closer to the judiciary by improving procedures for referring cases to the courts, President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided that the government should submit two draft resolutions to the Chamber of Deputies: the abolition of the State Security Court and the abolition of the post of the republican public prosecutor.

Baccouche Returns From Morocco; Reviews Visit

*LD290645 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 28 Nov 87*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche returned to Tunis yesterday evening following a short visit to Morocco. [passage omitted] The prime minister indicated that he met with his brother and friend, Dr Azzedine Laraki, on two occassions. They held deep and comprehensive talks on the issues that particularly concern the revival of our peoples and the assumption of our historic responsibilities to the satisfaction of our mind and our peoples.

In answering a question on whether a project for unifying the Arab Maghreb exists, Mr Hedi Baccouche noted there is not yet a well-defined plan on which the Arab Maghreb could be established. He stated: We are now in a stage of preparing suitable conditions.

Minister Baccouche then replied to a question on the Western Sahara issue, the UN initiative, and the UN secretary general. He stated: This initiative is a cause for optimism. Its progress is being followed by the entire world, particularly the Arab Maghreb countries, Tunisia, Algeria, or Tunisia, with all care and [words indistinct].

It should also be noted that as the prime minister was crossing Algerian airspace on his return to Tunisia, he addressed a message to Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi. Baccouche then expressed his fraternal greetings and asked Brahimi to convey expressions of consideration to President Chadli Bendjedid for him.

Conveys Message to President

*LD291419 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 29 Nov 87*

[Text] President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received the greetings of King Hassan II and his expression of fraternity and appreciation. These were conveyed by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, who called on the president at the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning. This meeting was part of his report on the mission for discussions with King Hassan II that the president entrusted him with. The talks with the Moroccan king comprise part of the dialogue between the political leaderships in the two fraternal countries.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Papers Applaud Attack on Israeli Military Camp

JN271824 Manama WAKH in English 1508 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Manama, Nov 27 (GNA)—Qatari newspaper *Al-Rayah*, commenting on the Palestinian commando raid on an Israeli military camp in northern occupied Palestine Thursday [as received] night, in which Israel said 14 soldiers and officers were killed or wounded, contended that the Zionist enemy will never obtain security as long as it continues to occupy Arab lands and ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinian commando operation, by no means the last is a message to the entire world that the Palestinian people is there and active in denying the enemy peace and forcing it to drink from the cup of death the Zionists have repeatedly forced down the throats of the Palestinian children, women and the old aged," the paper said in a front page editorial.

The paper contended that the Thursday night armed operation is merely a warning to the enemy as well as the world community that the insistence of the Zionist entity on its attitude (towards the issue of peace in the area) will cost the Zionists and, possibly the entire world, much, unless the world powers moved to get the Israeli enemy to renounce its stand of intransigence and its insistence on usurping the land and rendering the Palestinian people destitute.

United Arab Emirates newspapers today hailed as "heroic" the Palestinian attack on an Israeli camp that killed 6 soldiers and wounded 7.

"The attack dealt a big shock to the Zionist enemy as it came at a time when talk increased about peace settlements," the Abu Dhabi-based *Al-Ittihad* said.

It said the attack was welcomed by the Arabs as the only means to liberate "our lands and regain our rights."

"The attack has also shocked the Israelis as it revealed the ineffectiveness of their defences," it said. "It also proved that our struggle with Israel is a struggle for survival rather than mere borders."

The paper urged the Arabs to follow this example which could "illuminate the path of struggle against the enemy."

Under the title "The Heroic Epic" the Al-Shariqah-based *Al-Khalij* described the Palestinian who carried out the attack as a "meteor."

"Like a meteor in a dark night, this youth set out to illuminate the truth which they have tried to obliterate under the banners of peace and the international conference," it said.

"His example should be followed by all those who claim patriotism and struggle for freedom and liberation."

The Dubayy-based *Al-Bayan* newspaper said the attack "demonstrated the Israeli enemy's failure to encounter the will of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped land."

The Bahraini daily *Akhbar Al-Khalij* said that the commando attack Wednesday on an Israeli base in occupied Palestine has initiated a new spirit and hope in the future.

It said in its editorial today that the Zionist enemy has proved that he can be defeated if there were the will of sacrifice and fight.

The paper wondered what the result would be if the national Palestinian Lebanese resistance in Lebanon and Palestine were fully supported and backed by the Arab world, pointing out to the Wednesday's attack by a Palestinian commando in which six Israeli soldiers were killed and others injured. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, *Al-Riyad* daily lauded the recent dare operation executed by two Palestinian commandos as a new way for penetration strategy that means a new challenge to all open detecting eyes of the Zionist enemy.

The daily said the operation means that the commandos are capable to reach all the Israeli camps and regarded as a new and important development in guerilla methods.

Panamanian Tanker Hit by Missile; No Injuries

NC282057 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1930 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The *Filikon-L*, a Panamanian-registered, Cypriot-owned tanker weighing 98,847 tons, was struck by a missile yesterday in the Persian Gulf. This was reported by the Troodhos Shipping Company to the Ministry of Merchant Marine. According to the same reports, none of the 5 Greek and 28 foreign crewmen on board was injured. The tanker had sailed from Khark Island loaded with oil and was destined for a port in the Persian Gulf. It is now being towed to the mouth of the Gulf.

Kuwait

Appointment of Ambassador to Egypt Announced

LD291130 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] A decree published in today's *Kuwait Today*, the official Kuwaiti gazette, appointed 'Abd al-Latif 'Abdallah Ghudan as assistant secretary general of the Council of Ministers. He will have the rank of asssistant under secretary. Another decree named 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Qadid al-Kandari as Kuwaiti ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Al-'Usaymi Blames Iran, Low Arab Unity for War

LD292229 Kuwait KUNA in English 1721 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Washington, Nov 29 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi emphasized here Sunday that Kuwait is against the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, while Iran is seeking to continue this war for several reasons.

Among those reasons, Al-'Usaymi explained, is the "very big danger" stopping the war might pose on the survival of the current regime in Iran.

In a seminar attended by hundreds of Kuwaiti students in the U.S., the Kuwaiti minister hailed the results of the recent extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Amman and expressed optimism that the unified Arab stance against the continuation of the war reached by the summit would urge Iran to reconsider its insistence on the continuation of the war.

Al-'Usaymi was speaking at the 6th annual conference of the Kuwait National Students Union-U.S. Branch, which has been under way here over the past three days under the banner of "Kuwait and the Results of the Gulf War."

The Kuwaiti official is due to meet within the next few days with ranking officials in addition to prominent members of the Congress.

The talks are expected to concentrate on bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf region, especially the Iran-Iraq war developments.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that Iran's objective behind continuing the war is [words indistinct] to export its revolution, particularly to neighboring countries.

He added that the failure by Iran to penetrate the Iraqi fortifications, has led it to move its war to the Gulf waters and to launch aggressions on ships and tankers.

He wondered why Iran insists on attacking Kuwaiti ships while Kuwait had been one of the first countries that congratulated Iran for its revolution.

Al-'Usaymi refuted all Iranian pretexts for launching its aggressions on Kuwait and emphasized that Kuwait has exerted efforts on the Islamic, Arab and bilateral levels to dissuade Iran from continuing its attacks on Kuwaiti ships.

He added that the rejection by Iran of those efforts led Kuwait to the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to charter tankers to ship Kuwaiti oil and to register other ships with other countries.

Al-'Usaymi pointed out the fact that Kuwait had not been the first to embark on such a step and recalled that Iran has been the first in the Gulf region to resort to such a plan to avoid Iraqi attacks.

He then spoke about the positive results of the Kuwaiti decision to charter ships and to re-register others and said this decision has led to internationalizing what had been called the forgotten war in the Gulf.

Al-'Usaymi said that after Kuwait took the decision to protect its ships, the Security Council unanimously adopted the Resolution 598 which calls for ending the fighting.

The Kuwaiti minister said despite the Iranian attempts to find an outlet from that resolution, the Security Council which adopted the resolution "would be embarrassed if it fails to implement it."

Al-'Usaymi put the blame on the continuation of the war on the lack of a unified Arab position and said "Iran would have thought 1000 times before continuing the war if it reached the conclusion that it is not only fighting Iraq but the whole Arab world and that the Arab world does not differentiate between occupying the Al-Faw and the occupation of Damascus, Tripoli or Rabat."

The Kuwaiti minister also said that Iran has benefited from the war by silencing the opposition Iran.

On the Iranian charges that Kuwait has allowed the foreign fleets in the Gulf, Al-'Usaymi said it is naive to believe that Kuwait is having such a right to allow or to prevent the fleets in or from the Gulf.

He pointed out that the U.S., British, Soviet and French naval forces were in the Gulf waters before the Kuwaiti decision to protect its ships.

The Kuwaiti minister urged Iran to stop its acts of piracy in the Gulf "and then all foreign fleets will withdraw from the Gulf."

Al-'Usaymi briefed the students on the developments of the recent resolution adopted by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers to open the door for volunteers for civil defence, and said the number of those registered for that scheme is encouraging.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Maritime Target Hit 27 Nov

JN271621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1612 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 27 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to cut off the oil supply lifelines of the tyrant gang ruling in Tehran, the planes of our bold Air Force launched a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1700 [1400 GMT] today. After dealing the target an accurate and effective blow, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. This is the second maritime target hit by our aircraft in the past 24 hours.

[Dated] 27 November 1987

Northern Border 'Offensive' Denied

JN271640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denied Iran's claims to have repulsed an Iraqi offensive in the area of Mawut [as received] on Iraq's northern border. A military spokesman told INA today that no such offensive took place, nor was a battle fought here. He explained that the Iraqi forces had directed flames of artillery, as well as light and medium weapons fire, at Iranian troop concentrations, inflicting heavy losses.

Communique No 2,930

JN271806 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,930 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continue to confirm their overwhelming superiority over our apostate enemies through their heroic confrontation of the Zionist Khomeyniite remnants. The outcome of the activities of our forces for last night and today is as follows:

1. In conformity with the splendid victories achieved by our heroic Air Force, which destroys the pillars of aggression and cuts off the oil supplies exploited by the malicious clique of charlatanry ruling in Tehran to attack our country, our aircraft launched two successful raids on two maritime targets off the Iranian coast. The first target, which was very large, was attacked at 2130 [1830 GMT] yesterday; the second target, which was attacked at 1700 today, was a large one. Our rapacious hawks carried out 82 combat missions in order to accomplish the two missions mentioned above and to strike at enemy units in the operational sectors. The hawks and their planes then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships continued to carry out their duties in the operational sectors, inflicting new losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the tyrant Khomeyniites. This was achieved through 43 combat missions. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our courageous units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: 32 scoundrels killed, 2 vehicles set on fire and destroyed, 1 60-mm mortar and 1 medium machinegun destroyed, 1 shovel [preceding word in English] damaged, and 1 infantry position destroyed and its occupants killed or wounded.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed and four others were wounded, seven positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed or wounded in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps east of Maysan.

7. Using various types of weapons, our brave units in the V Army Corps northern sector dealt concentrated blows to enemy positions and weapons. They managed to achieve the following: 15 personnel shelters and 4 infantry positions destroyed, 1 57-mm antiaircraft gun and 1 tubular launcher destroyed, 4 vehicles set on fire and destroyed, 2 observation posts destroyed and their occupants killed, 1 shovel destroyed, and 7 ammunition dumps blown up.

8. One heavy machinegun was destroyed and its crewmen killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

9. In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, one shovel was damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

10. The vile Khomeyniites shelled the village of Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery last night and today. The enemy shelling martyred five civilians, including two women and two children, wounded six other citizens, including four women and one child, and damaged a number of houses. Mercy to our martyrs and a speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 November 1987

Dahuk Network Attack Denied

JN271922 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (WAKH)—The Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about an attack on the electric power network in Dahuk Governorate in northern Iraq. He asserted that these claims are false and baseless.

Commenting on Iran's announcement that its forces, along with a number of Kurdish rebels, carried out operations against the electricity towers in Dahuk Governorate, the military spokesman said: It is easy for anyone to cut an electric wire or destroy an electricity pole in remote areas, but such things have never happened. He explained that saboteurs are accustomed to giving such false information to the Iranian Government and taking advantage of its ignorance in order to obtain (?financial) gains according to an agreement between the two sides.

The spokesman added that this agreement conforms with the [words indistinct] Government's dealing with terrorist elements wordwide. Therefore, they lie to obtain more money, he added. This explains the numerous claims about operations which have never taken place, he said. The Iraqi military spokesman cited the Iranian claim to have obstructed the strategic road between Turkey and Iraq [words indistinct]. He said that (?this) road, as everyone knows, is open and safe like any Iraqi road. No one using the road has confirmed the Iranian obstruction claims.

The spokesman then commented on the two planes which [words indistinct] said they had attacked targets in the south [of Iraq] yesterday. He reported that the planes had dropped their freight on remote, uninhabited areas and then returned to Iran. He added that in return the Iraqi Air Force had launched 73 raids through which it inflicted heavy losses on the equipment and weapons of the Iranian forces. He stressed that the Iranian (?forces) cannot advance on or approach Iraqi positions due to strong Iraqi air and ground defenses.

Iranian Losses Exceed 5,000

JN281516 Manama Wakh in Arabic 1416 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (WAKH)—Reliable military sources have estimated Iranian losses in the wake of the battles waged in the Haj 'Umran area in northeast Iraq last week to be greater than 5,000 killed.

These sources told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that following their confrontation of Iranian attacks, the Iraqi forces managed to destroy Iranian troops, including five regiments belonging to the 64th Division: the 795th, the 109th, the 103d, the 132d, and the 115th Regiments. The sources pointed out that the battles waged in no-man's-land occurred as a result of a foolish Iranian reaction in response to the successful offensive launched by the Iranian opposition National Liberation Army forces last week. This offensive targeted the forces belonging to Iran's 64th Division in this area. The sources said that Iran's human losses were so high that the numerous trucks seen in the area have not yet been able to remove all of the corpses. Many corpses are still left in no-man's-land.

Last week the Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition organization announced that its forces had launched an offensive against the Iranian forces in the Haj 'Umran area which killed or wounded more than 3,000 Iranians.

Northern Sector Combat Described

JN281520 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1453 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Iraqi fighter planes and helicopter gunships carried out 111 combat missions today against Iranian troop concentrations in the northern sector of the operational theater.

The Iraqi military spokesman told INA this afternoon that Iraqi fighter planes inflicted heavy losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment in 75 air raids. Meanwhile, helicopter gunships launched 36 combat missions against enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, and weapon emplacements. The fighter planes and the helicopter gunships returned safely to base. The spokesman reported that 11 Iranian soldiers were killed in the operational sectors and that 9 Iranian infantry positions, 3 observation posts, one armored personnel carrier, and 2 weapons emplacements were destroyed. He added that five vehicles were set ablaze, three vehicles were damaged, and three shovels [preceding word in English], five ammunition dumps, two machineguns, and one 10-mm [as received] gun were set on fire.

Attack on Sirwan Area Denied

JN281713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1657 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Iraq today denied Iran's claims that its forces had launched an offensive against the area of Sirwan in northern Iraq on 14 November.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the fact that Iran remembered this offensive and broadcast reports on it from Tehran radio 14 days after its occurrence, as they alleged, is sufficient proof of their lies. The spokesman asserted that such an offensive did not take place in the area of Sirwan.

Communique No 2,931

JN281739 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,931 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces, which defend the dear homeland and which embody the will of right, continued their heroic activities last night and today as follows:

1. Throughout the day, our heroic Air Force continued to raid enemy units, inflicting death on numerous scoundrels and destruction on their weapons, positions, and equipment in 75 combat missions. Our planes then returned safely to base in God's care.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships carried out 36 combat missions, inflicting losses on our enemies in personnel, equipment, and weapons. The helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. One armored personnel carrier and one vehicle were destroyed and one shovel [preceding word in English] and three vehicles were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One ammunition dump was blown up in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One enemy soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Three scoundrels were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Four vehicles, one machinegun, six infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. Our brave formations in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: seven personnel killed; three infantry positions, two weapon emplacements, and one observation post destroyed; one single-barrelled machinegun destroyed; and one vehicle and two shovels set ablaze and destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 November 1987

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN281911 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims to have downed an Iraqi plane today. In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman affirmed that all Iraqi planes, which launched 75 air raids against Iranian forces today, have returned safely to base.

Maritime Target Hit 28 Nov

JN282057 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2050 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 28 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force continues to be a lofty mountain and delivers successive stabs at our apostate enemies. In addition to what our aircraft achieved in the operational sectors today, they dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1940 [1640 GMT]. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 28 November 1987

Aircraft Raid Iranian Power Stations

JN291150 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,932 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 November]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our elite men of the Air Force continue to pounce on enemy remnants. They will continue to disperse their efforts against aggression and to destroy the mainstays of aggression which the regime of the charlatan and backward rulers use to satisfy their criminal inclinations and impinge on the sanctity of the people. Our brave hawks challenge the enemy on its own territory and receive their share of the enemy's vital targets, scorning enemy defenses and embodying the vigor and noble character of the Iraqis.

Your brave hawks penetrated enemy air defenses over very important economic targets today. These targets are linked with the enemy's war efforts. Your brave hawks achieved the following two missions:

1. At 1100 [0800 GMT] today, several of our aircraft penetrated enemy defenses having as their target the power distribution network in the big (Reza Shah) Dam. Our aircraft pounded the facilities of this network with a volley of missiles, inflicting on them heavy damage.

2. At the same time, several of our aircraft also penetrated the enemy's defenses in Sadd-e Dez and directed a volley of missiles at the power distribution station on the dam there, scoring accurate hits and generating explosions in their targets.

After carrying out these two missions with their famous courage and efficiency, all our hawks returned with their aircraft safely and triumphantly to the homeland.

Glory to great Iraq, the cradle of civilization and the country which struggles for freedom and advocates peace. May God bless our Air Force men—commanders, officers, hawks, and other ranks. Shame and ignominy on the ignorant, backward, and apostate rulers who reject peace. We thank God for His support and for granting us victory. He is the best of supporters.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 November 1987

Spokesman Details Iranian Losses

JN291454 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Our Air Force today carried out 70 air raids against Iranian troop concentrations, serious economic targets linked to the war effort, and a large maritime target in the Arabian Gulf waters off the Iranian coast. Moreover, helicopter gunships carried out 14 air raids against enemy troop concentrations, weapons emplacements, and vehicles in the northern and southern sectors.

In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said that Iranian losses in the northern sector included the destruction of one infantry position and one machinegun emplacement, the destruction of five vehicles of various types by setting them ablaze, the damaging of three vehicles, the destruction of one shovel [preceding word in English], and the killing of two personnel.

In the Special I Army Corps sector, one ammunition dump was blown up. In the central sector, three enemy personnel were killed and one machinegun was destroyed.

To the east of the Al-Basrah operational sector, one machinegun was destroyed. East of the Maysan operational sector, one shovel and one infantry position were destroyed. In the northern operational sector, 4 infantry positions were destroyed and 50 rifles, 6 machineguns, 5 60-mm mortars, and 5 RPT-77 launchers, which the enemy had left behind in previous battles, were found.

East of the Tigris operational sector, one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed, one mortar was destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

The Iraqi military spokesman added: In the VII Army Corps sector, two large vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, one infantry position was destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: Iranian losses total five killed, seven infantry positions and three machineguns destroyed, eight vehicles set ablaze and destroyed, three vehicles damaged, two shovels and one mortar destroyed, and six ammunition dumps blown up.

Maritime Target Hit 29 Nov

JN291727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1711 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To further cut off the Iranian regime's oil supply lifelines and to continue the achievements of our Air Force, which today dealt crushing blows to enemy economic targets linked to the war effort, our planes launched a successsful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1700 [1400 GMT] today. This is the second maritime target hit by the hawks in the past 24 hours. After dealing the target an accurate and effective blow, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

[Dated] 29 November 1987

Iran Shells Qal'at Dizah

JN291737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1716 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Residential areas in the village of Qal'at Dizah in northern Iraq were shelled by Iranian long-range artillery tonight. In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the enemy shelling had martyred one child and wounded two civilians, including a woman.

Communique No 2,933

JN291804 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,933 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To defend Iraq and its people, our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today with high morale, inflicting further losses on the enemies of our country as follows:

1. The number of combat missions by our heroic Air Force to carry out the two duties mentioned in Communique No 2,932, issued this afternoon, as well as to carry out duties in the opertional sectors, totaled 78. All of our planes then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The helicopter gunship knights carried out 20 combat missionstoday, inflicting new losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. The knights then returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two enemy soldiers were killed, one infantry position and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed, five vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, three vehicles were damaged, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed.

4. Three enemy personnel were killed and one machinegun was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One ammunition dump was destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One enemy machinegun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One shovel and one infantry position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. In the V Army Corps northern sector, four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed or wounded. One of our patrols in the same sector found 50 rifles, 6 medium machineguns, 5 RPG-7 launchers, and 5 60-mm mortars which the enemy had left behind in no-man's-land in previous battles.

7. One vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed, one mortar was destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VI Army Corps east of the Tigris.

8. In the VII Army Corps sector, two large vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, one infantry position was destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 November 1987

Air Force Attacks Power Stations

JN301229 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1156 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,934 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In confirmation of Iraq's inalienable and legitimate right to destroy the pillars of aggression and to prevent the Iranian regime from using its economic installations to prolong the war and continue its crimes against our people and our nation; to embody our country's capability and its overwhelming superiority over our enemies, the Khomeyniites; and to consolidate our country's God-supported victory, our gigantic Air Force has continued its firm and brave challenge to the Iranian regime and has responded to its charlatanism with the bombs of truth. Our brave eagles carried out the following two heroic missions this morning:

1. At 0954 [0654 GMT], a number of our planes launched a violent raid on a power station to the south of Tangivar and strongly pounded their targets, destroying them with their bombs.

2. At 1000, other planes directed a strong blow to a power station to the north of Hamadan, hitting their targets accurately and causing them to explode.

After carrying out these two missions, our brave and skillful eagles returned with their planes safely to the homeland in God's care. To hell with the scoundrel Khomeyniites, who will reap nothing from their disobedience of God's orders and from their rejection of the world's will to achieve peace. They inflict shame and disgrace on their peoples, as well as suffer continuous defeat at the hands of Iraq's men.

God preserve you for good deeds and heroic actions, O men of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and men. With God's help, our Iraq will move from one victory to another.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 November 1987

Iranian Planes Raid Residential Areas

JN301238 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1224 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Two Iranian planes today strafed residential areas in the Taklif area of the Nineveh Governorate in northern Iraq after violating Iraq's international border. The residential areas were their targets. A military spokesman told INA that the incident resulted in the martyrdom of one civilian and the wounding of another.

RCC Meeting Views Military, Political Situation

JN281942 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn chaired an RCC meeting this evening to discuss the current political situation and recent developments in the region following the Amman summit and the positive resolutions it adopted. The conferees also dealt with the military situation. They expessed satisfaction with the preparations made by the heroic Iraqi Armed Forces, as well as with their good performance on various combat lines.

The RCC voiced its deep confidence in the ability of our Armed Forces to crush any aggression by the Iranian regime in any form or size. The RCC warned the Iranian regime that any new foolish adventure it might carry out will not remove this regime from its dilemma. The Iranian regime can do nothing but accept the peace option and yield to international will by accepting Resolution 598 in letter and spirit and by abandoning the methods of deception, maneuvering, and the imposition of silly conditions.

During its meeting, the RCC discussed the talks which the foreign minister will hold with the UN secretary general next week. The RCC emphasized Iraq's stand, which welcomes Resolution 598. This is a consistent stand which conforms with the principled stance adopted by Iraq throughout the years of conflict. This stance expresses a genuine desire for a just peace. The RCC also reiterated the Iraqi stand which voices readiness to hold consultations with the UN secretary general and the Security Council with good intentions to seek an honest and complete implementation of the resolution in accordance with the sequence of its clauses, as well as for the sake of achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace. The minister of culture and information attended the meeting.

President Chairs Ecomonic Affairs Meeting

JN291419 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting to discuss the developments being witnessed by the world economy, as well as their link to and ramifications on the economy of Third World countries, including our own. The Session also included an economic dialogue during which constructive views and ideas were exchanged on this vital topic. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; other RCC members; the head of the president's office; a number of ministers; the president's secretary; and several economic specialists.

Oil Minister Leaves for Kuwait OAPEC Meeting

JN272033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim and his accompanying delegation left for Kuwait today to participate in the 39th meeting of the OAPEC Ministerial Council, which will begin in Kuwait tomorrow.

Prior to his departure, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim told INA that the meeting is of (?special) importance now. It will study the results of the work undertaken by the committee formed by the OAPEC Ministerial Council to reconsider its structure and to define a new work plan which conforms to its current situation. It will also consider the draft financial budget for the new year.

He added that the OAPEC Ministerial Council will discuss the ongoing preparations for the fourth Arab (?energy) conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 4 March to consider the energy situation in the Arab countries, its current sources, and the possibility of promoting and preserving it. The conference will also discuss existing industries, particularly those related to oil and gas.

The minister pointed out that the meeting will review other topics on Arab cooperation and coordination, issues related to the OAPEC judicial body, the (?Arab) oil institute, and reports on the convening of seminars and courses next year. He explained that during his participation in the meeting he will hold talks with the Kuwaiti oil minister on bilateral cooperation in oil fields, as well as consultations with Arab oil ministers on the OPEC Ministerial Council's meeting, scheduled to be held in Vienna on 9 December.

Reportage on Aftermath of Glider Attack

Severe Discipline Expected

TA290804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Severe disciplinary steps will be taken against all ranks of the NAHAL brigade whose soldiers were hit in the [25 November hang glider] attack.

A NAHAL brigade commander has taken responsibility for the negligence. An inquiry has already made clear that commanders and soldiers at the base did not carry out standing orders during the alert and once the warning about the hang gliders was given. The soldiers were summoned to a role call for the alert but they later left their weapons in a tent and went to their clubroom to watch television. Base commanders did concentrate the women soldiers in one place with armed guards but they did not reinforce the guard at the main gate nor did they place guards around the base.

The inquiry also shows that one soldier at the main gate heard the terrorist firing on a military vehicle nearby, but that he ran from his post. The guard did not warn the other soldiers about the shooting and it took 5 minutes from then until the terrorist entered the camp. It appears that the rest of the soldiers did not hear those first shots. The inquiry also shows that only one Israeli fired at the terrorist during the attack. The terrorist managed to empty 7 magazines with 200 bullets and to throw 3 grenades before he was killed.

Analysis on Lack of Response

TA271204 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Nov 87 pp 1, 19

[Analysis by Hirsh Goodman: "The Questions That Must Be Answered"]

[Text] Among the many questions that remain open following Wednesday night's attack on an Army base in the Galilee, two stand out:

—How does a terrorist using primitive hang gliders manage to infiltrate Israel's highly sophisticated anti-aircraft defences along the northern border—this despite the knowledge that Jibril's organization possessed hang gliders and were known to be training on them?

—How could a lone terrorist, armed with only a submachine gun, a pistol and several hand-grenades, enter a guarded military base, kill five soldiers (one of the six men killed was killed on the road several minutes prior to the attack) and wound seven more—even though there had been a 20 minute warning of a pending attack after the sound of a motorized glider had been reported?

With regard to the first question, one can accept the chief of staff's contention that no defences are foolproof and that successful infiltration attempts are inevitable. It is precisley because of this truism that once an infiltration has been registered the army is supposed to have a rapid response mechanism to minimize potential damage—something that was widely in evidence on Wednesday night but not at the point attacked.

At 9:30 the Northern Command was alerted to the danger of an infiltration from the air. Immediatly a massive defensive network encompassing the air force, ground forces and civil defence arms in the northern Galilee was placed on alert. Flares, hundreds of them were fired into the night and helicopters buzzed in all directions. Kibbutzim and moshavim in the north placed extra guards on duty, but inexplicably, at the camp attacked almost half-an-hour after the first warnings, very little preparation seems to have taken place. There was only one guard at the gate—if a rope strung across the entrance can be called a gate—and the men killed were cut down while unarmed and unprepared. If it were not for the vigilance and bravery of a storeman who finally shot the terrorist at extremely close range, the casualty toll could have been much higher.

It is easy, as the Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and O.C. [Officer in Command] Northern Command Yosi Peled have done, to blame the guard at the gate. But why was there only one guard at the gate? Why were the men in the camp not armed and placed in defensive positions? Why were most of the men killed in a tent, and others in the base's clubhouse?

These questions become especially acute if one considers that only minutes before the same terrorist had attacked an Army vehicle on the road just several dozen metres away from the camp's perimeter—an action that should have been heard if those in the base had been attuned to the pending danger. Shomron and Peled may be correct in their assessment that it had not been the terrorists' intention to attack an Army base but a civilian target, and that he happened on the base by accident. This, however, does not alter the fact that it was a military target attacked, making this action a double 'victory' for Jibril's organization. It also makes the need for clear answers to the unanswered questions doubly imperative.

Shamir on Syrian Role

TA272008 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Me'ir Kohen on Arabic newsreel conducted in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—videorecorded in studio]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr Prime Minister, after the terrorist attack in the north you accused Syria of responsibility. How does Israel regard this fact?

[Shamir] Well, Israel regards any terrorist attack on its people, its citizens, its soldiers, or its territory, with great gravity. This was a grave act of murder that was perpetrated by fanatical people who are committing acts that do not serve any purpose or any objective. After all, the Arabs all know by now that their acts of hostility are not helping them one bit. These acts are not advancing them 1 millimeter toward their goal. They are just causing suffering and losses in human life, particularly losses for them. This is also how it will be in the future if they continue to follow this path. Therefore, we think that all the Arab nations should very quickly reach the conclusion that there is no point, no benefit, and no purpose in continuing the acts of terrorism and a way must be found to conduct negotiations in order to reach peaceful solutions.

[Kohen] Sir, will Israel, the security establishment, take special measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future?

[Shamir] Of course. Our security establishment, as is well known, is efficient and knows how to achieve its goals. All the lessons will be learned. Where there were weaknesses, they will be eliminated. Any terrorists who come will get the reception they deserve.

[Kohen] How do you regard the significance of Syrian aid for the conduct of attacks against Israel? How do you view them?

[Shamir] It is not new. Syria has not changed its position, to my great regret, and we have not changed our position.

[Kohen] Following the talks you held in Washington with the U.S. President and administration leaders, you said the international conference idea has been dropped from the agenda. Is the practical significance of this a freeze in the political process?

[Shamir] No. Look, the matter of the international conference did not serve the political process. Such an international conference as proposed cannot serve the cause of peace, it cannot bring peace. It is some sort of ceremony in which all sorts of elements will participate. They will make speeches, and that will be the end of it. It will not bring peace one bit closer. I say that what we need is genuine negotiations, direct negotiations, among the regional elements. These negotiations must be between the elements who have an interest in peace. Foreign elements that are not in the region can only make matters more complicated, not simpler. These elements should not be involved in negotiations. This is not just my view, that the matter of the international conference has been dropped from the agenda. It is also the view of the authorized elements in the United States. We must seek other ways for direct negotiations in order to come closer to peace.

[Kohen] You received a letter 2 weeks ago from the Egyptian president. This letter expresses concern over the continuation of the political status quo and its implications regarding the area. How do you regard these concerns?

[Shamir] Well, I am in favor of promoting peace in the area. Without a doubt I respect the continuity of Egyptian policy for its support of the peace agreement with Israel. I criticze the fact that Egypt is not maintaining several commitments that originate in both the peace agreement and the Camp David accords, but I very much appreciate the existing state of peace between us and Egypt. I think that we must continue from the point at which we stopped. We must continue the negotiations within the framework of the Camp David agreements—perhaps with certain changes, by incorporating Jordan in the negotiations—and I believe that this is the only realistic way to bring peace closer.

Shamir on Galilee Attack, Carlucci Remarks

TA290639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and Yitzhaq Eytan—live]

[Text] [Eytan] Mr Prime Minister, regarding the responsibility of the IDF ranks for the incident in Qiryat Shemona last week: First, the guard on post in the encampment and the soldiers in the camp were criticized. We have now learned that the commander of the NAHAL brigade has assumed responsibility for the incident. Is this the highest level of responsibility?

[Shamir] I believe the IDF should be allowed to investigate everything that took place in that serious and extraordinary event quietly and thoroughly, enabling it to draw conclusions and learn the necessary lessons from it. I believe the conclusions will be drawn in the next few days, and the IDF will undoubtedly make sure that such incidents do not recur in the future.

[Eytan] Do you hold the commander of the Northern Command or other senior army officers responsible for the fact that the soldiers failed to react professionally?

[Shamir] I believe one should be careful not to draw hasty conclusions outside the framework of the defense establishment. That establishment, or the IDF, has the experience and knows how to draw the appropriate conclusions even if they are grave and unpleasant. These bodies should be permitted to engage in just such a process without any external advice.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, in view of the fact that all the clues lead to Jibril's organization, which apparently received Syrian backing, let us try to examine the conclusions drawn by the political echelon. Should we change our policy toward those under whose aegis this operation took place?

[Shamir] We should view this incident honestly. All the possibilities should be weighed. First of all, the political echelon is awaiting the outcome of the IDF debriefing. Additionally the defense establishment should present all the options that are open to that echelon.

[Ben-'Ami] Meaning possible retaliatory actions following this incident?

[Shamir] Everything that can and should be done should be presented to the political echelon as a proposal. That echelon will then discuss the options and make its own decision.

[Eytan] Mr Prime Minister, can you envision any way of warning Syria against similar attacks in the future? Immediately after the attack, you pointed an accusing finger at Damascus, and in fact Syria did shoulder the responsibility for that attack in the north.

[Shamir] First of all, it was necessary to point out the country on whose soil all the preparatory work was done; the country that provides the terrorists will all the encouragement and support. Recently Syria has been trying to show that it is changing its nature, positions, and conduct. This resulted in some improvement in Syria's status in the international political arena. It is therefore necessary to point out that Syria has not changed intrinsically. Our conclusions are our own affair, and I do not believe we should come out with declarations on the matter before something has been done or before measures have been taken.

[Ben-'Ami] You visited the north 1 day after the hang glider incident, meeting with representatives of the regional settlements including residents of Qiryat Shemona and kibbutz settlers from the area. They raised the very serious complaint of being neglected and of suffering severe economic problems. What answer could you give people who occasionally encounter this distress and, at the very least, demand financial help?

[Shamir] The economic problems afflicting that entire region are not new. They have existed for a long time and we have contended with them all along. Naturally, the people facing these hardships are demanding that measures that are to be taken be employed much faster and on a broader scale. A lot has been done over the years and we are constantly doing things for that area. I believe that even those things that have not yet been done will be addressed in the very near future.

[Eytan] Mr Shamir, your remarks about Syria's recent attempt to portray itself in a different light than it really is help us move on to the political sphere: U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci believes that no breakthrough toward the convocation of an international Middle East conference may be expected in the future. He made those remarks at a meeting with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in which he also criticized the Soviet role in the Middle East. Mr Shamir, you have long maintained that the international conference is actually defunct. The question is whether—after even the United States and Secretary Carlucci, too, recognize this fact—there is no danger that the government you are heading might sink into a state of apathy and torpor in a sit-back-and-do-nothing situation.

[Shamir] It is absurd to mention apathy. We have never been indifferent to events in Israel or its surroundings. We are aware of everything that is happening, everything that is being planned, as well as everything that is being schemed and plotted. We believe that the efforts to achieve political solutions should never cease, and that at the same time deterrence must be enhanced. And we are acting accordingly.

I never thought that an international conference could lead to any political solution. The implication is therefore clear to all of us: direct negotiations with our neighbors. We should strive to reach that point. The sooner one relinquishes illusions and discards any notions that cannot serve as solutions, the sooner we will arrive at the only remaining path—and one that always exists—toward achieving a political solution, namely direct negotiations. This should be the goal, and it would be a good idea for the superpowers to realize that this is the path to follow. Israel is always ready to engage in direct negotiations. Unfortunately our neighbors are not prepared to do the same. They must be pressured and persuaded to join direct negotiations without preconditions, too.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, during your latest visit to the United States, you said that you really are not an idea-spewing machine. Still, is there any middle course between the one polar extreme made up of those who are awakening from the dream, realizing that an international conference is probably not the right way, and the other extreme which advocates direct negotiations that the Arabs still refuse to join?

[Shamir] It would be wrong to think that the whole world is awaiting some kind of international conference with bated breath. Reports published in our media should not be taken as political truth. Everyone knows that there is a conflict in the Middle East, that there are differences of opinion in Israel, and that these differences should be overcome by negotiations. It is always possible to propose interim measures. Various proposals have been raised, but there is no need for public declarations about each and every proposal. The question is whether the sides accept this. One should always bear in mind and remind the whole world that Israel is ready to negotiate, but that its neighbors are not. This is the crucial and decisive fact. The political effort should be directed at persuading the other side—that is, the Arab countries—to embark on the path of negotiations, too.

[Eytan] Do you mean, sir, that we should expect a peace initiative from you even before the Knesset elections?

[Shamir] I do not know whether one should expect any specific peace initiative. We always come up with ideas and proposals, but this is not the solution. What we lack is not proposals, initiatives, or ideas. We lack something more fundamental and elementary: the Arab countries' consent to engage in direct negotiations without preconditions. This is where we should concentrate our efforts. My estimation is that the United States shares our view that this is the only road and that this is where pressure should be applied and action be taken. As the U.S. secretary of state said, the Soviet Union has not embraced this course of action and is not even contemplating it, because what constitutes the USSR's highest concern is not a solution to the problem of conflicts and the bringing of peace, but the attainment of substantial influence.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, this morning we reported about contacts held by the head of the Soviet delegation that is currently visiting Israel with top Foreign Ministry officials. Is this what you referred to when you mentioned a channel of communication with the Soviets that it would be advisable to maintain?

[Shamir] I do not believe too much should be said or excessive significance attributed to every word uttered by every Soviet diplomat. We are aware of the overall Soviet attitude toward this issue. One should also take into account the fact that there are currently much more significant global issues in which the two major superpowers are currently involved. Nevertheless, we focus our main attention on our own interests and on subjects that matter to us. This should not divert attention from the main path requiring action by the two sides, that is, the path of direct negotiations. Meanwhile, we should step up our deterrent capability and take action at home as warranted. It is necessary to remember that to achieve peace, we must be very strong.

[Eytan] Mr Prime Minister, we still have so many questions following the long media silence, but we will make do with this. Thank you very much, Mr Shamir, and thanks also to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Carlucci Conference Remarks Cause 'Confusion'

*TA300807 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 30 Nov 87*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Israeli Embassy in Washington to check whether Defense Secretary Carlucci did say in a meeting with leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that the notion of an international conference does not stand a chance at present and that there had been no change in the Soviet position regarding the Middle East. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

The remarks attributed yesterday to U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci regarding the peace process evoked great confusion in Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office in Jerusalem which is now trying to check them out.

Officials in Peres' office argue that Carlucci's remarks do not square with the U.S. Administration's known position. For example, Carlucci was quoted as having said that it is not true that the Soviets now agree to have the Palestinians represented in the negotiations in a joint delegation with the Jordanians. According to a report sent by the Israeli Embassy in Washington, however, Secretary of State Shultz and Assistant Secretary of State Murphy themselves told Prime Minister Shamir that Husayn had obtained the Soviets' consent to a joint delegation. Husayn also said in a recent meeting with Murphy that Shamir's position is a foolproof recipe for a stalemate and that the only thing precluding an agreement between Israel and Jordan is the lack of progress toward an international conference.

Another report received by the Foreign Ministry about the Shultz-Shamir talks, this time from a U.S. source, has it that the U.S. secretary of state did not agree with the Israeli prime minister's statement that there is no need to present new ideas on the Middle East process, and that the two men agreed to disagree. For his part, Prime Minister Shamir over the past few days has been saying that he and the U.S. Administration see fully eye to eye and have no differences of opinion, and that the Americans also believe that the notion of an international conference does not stand a chance.

The cables and reports are numerous and keep arriving in Jerusalem, but they are not always coordinated. The political argument over the peace process goes on even if there is no peace process itself, and is bound to pick up in the next few months in anticipation of the elections.

Peres on Carlucci, Shamir Remarks on Conference

*TA291121 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 29 Nov 87*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that he had not heard that U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci said that no international conference may be expected during President Reagan's term in office. Peres maintains that everything attributed to Carlucci in the press is merely a leak. Regarding Yitzhaq Shamir's comments that the international conference is dead, Shim'on Peres said that these are merely one man's musings. Mr Peres was speaking after a memorial service for David Ben-Gurion at Sede Boqer, which was also attended by President Hayim Herzog. Our correspondent Shim'on Alqavetz has excerpts of Peres' comments:

[Begin Peres recording] We have already had one international conference and Israel emerged unscathed. So why is everyone trying to sow fear? An international conference was held in Geneva once, leading to the launching of negotiations with Egypt. I know some people regret even that, but I don't.

I do not think we have a strategic problem. I believe that even when an incident occurs, it should be examined and reviewed. One must not, however, forget for even one moment that thousands of our sons, IDF soldiers, are permanently deployed along the border where they risk their lives. Thus, even if something did go wrong it should be investigated, but we should not forget for even a second the exceptional role played by the IDF along Israel's borders for Israel's safety. [end recording]

Egypt Reportedly To 'Expel' U.S. Diplomat

TA281232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper *Al-Safir* wrote this morning that Egypt will expel a U.S. diplomat from Cairo on charges that he helped four Israeli Mossad agents gather information on extremist Muslim groups in Egypt.

Our radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus said that according to the report, which has not been confirmed by any other source, the diplomat, who worked in the U.S. military attache's office in Cairo, organized meetings with Egyptian Government officials for the four Israelis, presenting them to his hosts as U.S. journalists.

Al-Safir said the U.S. diplomat also gathered information on the Egyptian military industry and recruited Egyptian civilians to help him.

According to the report the diplomat's wife has already left Egypt.

Mubarak Demands Release of Palestinian Boat

TA291449 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 87 p A5

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv has relayed to Israel a request from President Husni Mubarak to release a Palestinian boat and its five civilian passengers captured by the Israeli Navy last week.

Mubarak's request came as result of a message from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat asking for his personal intervention in the affair.

The Kuwaiti daily *Al-Qabas* reports that 'Arafat also asked the Egyptian president to exert pressure on Israel to cease the operations against Palestinian civilian boats. According to *Al-Qabas* the PLO has so far upheld its decision to abstain from military operations outside the occupied territories against Israeli civilians and diplomats.

In his message, 'Arafat claimed that the Palestinian boat, which was headed for North Yemen, had been apprehended by the Israeli Navy about 2 weeks earlier on an international navigation route between Cyprus and Egypt.

According to *Al-Qabas*, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry contacted the Israeli Embassy in Cairo several times regarding the hijacked boat, while the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv relayed President Mubarak's demand for the release of the boat and its five civilian passengers to the Israeli Government.

IDF Silent on Soldiers 'Captured' in Jordan

TA290653 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Two IDF officers were captured in Jordan on their way to Petra. This was reported by an Abu Dhabi newspaper. The IDF spokesman has refused to address this report.

Hungary Cancels Sharon Visit; Arab Pressure

TA290909 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] An "official invitation" to Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon to visit Hungary this week has been cancelled "at the last minute," sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Although the invitation, issued six weeks ago, had apparently come from Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Trade, but another body, the sources are certain that the invitation was approved by Hungary's leaders.

Foreign Ministry sources, however, continued to insist over the weekend that the ministry "knew nothing" of the invitation.

The sources in Jerusalem said that Sharon had "fully coordinated" his plans for the visit with Prime Minister Peres. The invitation, said the sources, included plans for a visit by Sharon to industrial and agricultural plants and meetings with Hungarian ministers and top economic officials.

The sources said that the president of the Israel Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Dani Gilerman, spoke last week with the Hungarian authorities, who gave the following reasons for the cancellation of the Sharon visit:

—Personnel changes in the upper echelons of Hungarian economic officialdom, including the replacement of some of the ministers Sharon was to have met.

—Heavy pressure by Arab states. In recent weeks, following the signing of the Israeli-Hungarian agreement to establish interest sections in each other's countries, the

Arabs cancelled some $300 million of Hungarian export orders. Fourteen Arab states lodged official protests in Budapest following the signing of the interest section agreement.

—A planned visit "in a few days time" to a number of Arab countries by a group of senior Hungarian Foreign Ministry officials aimed at refurbishing Arab-Hungarian relations—especially trade relations—in the wake of the interest section agreement with Israel.

The Hungarians told Gilerman, according to the sources in Jerusalem, that the cancellation of the visit was "nothing personal" and that, in the circumstances, they would have cancelled a planned visit by "any Israeli official."

This is the second time a European government has cancelled plans for a visit by the industry and trade minister. Four weeks ago, Spain, also at the last minute, "indefinitely postponed" a scheduled visit to Madrid. Sharon was to have led a 30-member delegation of Israeli economic officials and businessmen.

Soviet Consular Delegation Extends Stay

TA290740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] The head of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel, Genrikh Plikhin, recently held a series of discussions with the top echelons of the Foreign Ministry, including the director general for political affairs, Dr Yosi Beilin. The Voice of Israel's political affairs correspondent says the consular delegation has extended its stay in Israel, and now has visas until mid-January. The delegation came here earlier this year, officially to deal with the Soviet real estate and other consular issues.

Shamir To Decide on Deportation of 'Awwad

TA301054 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The decision regarding the deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad, head of the Center for the Study of Nonviolence, will be made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. This resolution was adopted at last Friday's meeting summoned by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. At the meeting, security officials demanded that the decision not to renew 'Awwad's identity card and to deport him be upheld. The Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, suggested that an attempt be made to come to an arrangement with 'Awwad that would be acceptable to the United States. The Foreign Ministry representative stressed the damage to Israel's relations with the United States as well as the great damage to Israel's public image caused by this affair and by the lack of a final decision.

Peres Denies Hindering Move

TA271415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has denied that his ministry worked to prevent Mubarak 'Awwad's deportation from Israel. Minister Peres told the ITIM correspondent that the U.S. Department asked his ministry not to deport 'Awwad and the request was passed on to the Interior Ministry. Mr Peres said the decision not to deport 'Awwad was made by the Ministry of the Interior.

PLO's Force 17 Claims Jerusalem Murders

NC271404 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 27 (AFP)—Two Israelis were discovered with their throats slit in the basement of a Jerusalem department store and a caller later Thursday claimed responsibility on behalf of the Force 17, an elite unit within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The two Israelis were agents of the Shin Bet internal security service, the caller said over the telephone to *Agence France-Presse*. Force 17 had killed the two men and would continue such attacks on Shin Bet agents, the caller said, speaking in broken English with a strong Arabic accent.

The bodies of Raphael Weizmann, 35, who runs a department store here, and the store's guard, Zakharia Mimouni, 50, were both found Thursday mutilated with several knife wounds. Their hands were tied behind their back and their throats had been slit.

A police spokesman said the killings were "most probably" the work of anti-Israeli militants.

Large Security Presence on Partition Anniversary

TA290744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GNT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Today marks the 40th anniversary of the United Nations partition plan to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. Arab disturbances in the territories began already yesterday. The Palestinian flag was raised by demonstrators at a number of locations and stones were thrown at several Israeli vehicles. In Nabulus, anti-Israeli pamphlets were distributed and in Qalqilyah a number of anti-Zionist slogans were painted on walls.

A large security force will be on duty in Jerusalem to prevent any disturbances today, the 29th of November, the anniversary of the UN decision to partition Palestine and to establish an independent State of Israel. Hundreds of policemen, border police, as well as soldiers, have been stationed in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Old City close to the Temple Mount.

Curfew Imposed in Balatah

TA291147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] There were a number of relatively minor disturbances this morning in several places in Judaea and Samaria. A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this morning a youth was wounded there by shots fired by IDF soldiers after he tried to run away from a patrol that ordered him to halt. In reaction, the inhabitants began a commercial strike, residents demonstrated, and the IDF imposed a curfew on the camp. Studies were disrupted in Nabulus and Hebron. In Jabaliyah in the Gaza Strip female students demonstrated in the street and hurled a gasoline bomb at an IDF patrol. In Rafah a gasoline bomb was thrown at a border police patrol. All these incidents are linked to today's anniversary of the UN resolution on the foundation of the state.

Two Youths Wounded

TA291529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Two youths of the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus suffered minor leg wounds this afternoon after being hit by IDF soldiers' gunshots. The two were wounded in the course of violent riots by dozens of youths who hurled stones, set tires on fire, and flew Palestinian flags. The security forces imposed a curfew on the refugee camp. This morning a camp youth was shot in the leg and slightly wounded after refusing a soldiers' order to stop. He was wearing a mask and carrying a club.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle at the Hablah intersection near Qalqilya. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Balatah Curfew Lifted

TA300710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] The curfew that was imposed yesterday on the Balatah refugee camp following incidents of disturbing the peace and rioting has been lifted. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, ordered the Kaduri school in Tulkarm closed for 1 week following rioting, tire burning, and stone throwing by students of the school.

Bomb Explodes in Petah Tiqva; No Casualties

TA261142 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] A bomb exploded a short while ago near the 'Aliya Institute on Herzog Street in Petah Tiqva. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

52-Day Media Strike Ends; Programs Resume

TA271227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] After a 52-day strike, the Voice of Israel is resuming its programs on all its networks. This weekend, today and tomorrow, several documentary programs will be broadcast. Tomorrow at 1430 the sports program will be aired. On Sunday the full range of programs will return.

Television will resume its programs at 1630 this afternoon with its Arabic programs; at 2000 the programs in Hebrew will resume. The Second Network directorate has announced that it is stopping its screening of full-length movies and is resuming its broadcasting on the networks on the scale prior to the strike.

UN Observers Report Palestinian Departures

TA271453 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] UN observers in southern Lebanon have said that terrorist headquarters have ordered their personnel to leave bases in the refugee camps from fear of Israeli Air Force [IAF] attacks. The observers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that since yesterday only women, children, and the elderly have remained in the Palestinian camps. Hundreds of terrorists have been found hiding places in the fields and gulleys in the region. Shi'ite farmers, however, are not permitting the terrorists to stay in their fields and are throwing them out with threats of the use of weapons.

Beirut broadcasting stations have reported that IAF planes have been flying over the Palestinian camps in the Sidon area at a low altitude over the last few hours.

King Husayn Sends Message to UN Committee

JN300800 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 87 pp 1,3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn said Sunday that Jordan's defence of the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people was unquestionable since the Kingdom's stand stemmed from its historic and geographic links with the Palestinian people, its national commitments to them and the mutual interests of Jordanians and Palestinians.

"Jordanians and Palestinians form one part of the same nation which is the target of the same aggression, and therefore we accept what our brothers under occupation accept because they are the party that faces the consequences of the Israeli occupation," the King said in a message to the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The message was sent on the eve of the anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In the message, delivered on his behalf by Mr 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, the King said that the struggle for Palestine was "between the legitimate owners of land and the usurpers of that land."

"Jordan's position was and still is based on rescuing the land and the Israeli occupation prior to enhancing the presence of the Palestinian people in their soil," the King said in his message. He said that despite failure of past efforts to liberate the land and the people, Jordan "will continue to extend support to the Palestinians to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of Israel's plans to annex and Judaise Arab land."

Following are major excerpts from the King's message to the UN committee:

I express my appreciation to you for your valuable efforts in defence of the rights of the Palestinian people and your endeavours to put an end to the suffering and the tragedy of that people living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This tragedy has been aggravated in the absence of a just and honourable peace and in view of continued occupation.

The annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has a special importance. It is a living proof of the just Palestinian cause which we consider as a means for renewing our commitment to the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and a new pledge for serious and perseverant efforts aimed at safeguarding their rights, hoping for the fulfilment of a just solution of their problem on the basis of international legitimacy and the principles of the United Nations Charter and UN Security Council Resolutions 338 of 1973 and 242 of 1967.

There is no doubt that your efforts form a tributary enhancing our concept that the basis of peace between the Arabs and Israel means the achievement of justice for the Palestinians. This conception stems from the Palestinian people's demands for their rights which enjoy the support of the international community which believes in the value of justice, right and equality.

These values form the components of the aspirations we hope to arrive at in a sound international order that can embody the ideals of brotherhood, peace, cooperation and understanding among world nations. We aspire for an order that can raise the flag of peace on the community of nations and achieve justice based on legitimacy and freedom, and progress and development on the basis of equality.

We share with you the view that this observation of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People reflects support for our people, now under the yoke of oppression at the hands of the occupier. We find in this occasion an incentive for all of us to carry out an assessment of the situation and a rectification of the order of things. We ought to remember the past and try to benefit from its lessons and we also ought to examine the present to understand it and rectify it.

These are no doubt the aspirations of all those who believe in the rights of the Palestinian people, but we in Jordan consider ourselves, together with our Palestinian brothers, as the vanguards in the struggle to fulfil these aspirations. The Palestinians took the first blow and have been enduring different forms of oppression and displacement due to military occupation of their land.

We in Jordan stand guard along the first defence line in the face of expansionism bearing its security, economic and political consequences, geographically and demographically. We have lived through the Palestinian tragedy from the beginning and throughout its various stages, sharing with our Arab brothers the consequences of aggression which is supported by various forces... an aggression directed against our Arab Nation at large.

Moreover, Palestine, which is a central issue for all Arabs and the focal issue for millions of people of faith, is for me personally a living issue in my mind and my conscience. Palestine is the land where the Prophet Muhammad took his nocturnal voyage to heaven and is a place to which my family is honoured to belong and one where my grandfather King 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn is buried... the son of the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, which broke out to unify the Arabs and liberate them. It is the land where my grandfather, the founder of the Kingdom, fell as a martyr.

Therefore I need not renew my personal commitment to Arab Palestine and pledge Jordan's support for the Palestinian brothers, who are linked to us throughout history and kinship. Above all that, we are one people having common destiny and common objectives.

Our defence of the just and legitiamte Palestinian rights is unquestionable and emanates from our national commitment and historic and geographic links with the Palestinian people.

We share with the international community its firm stand in the face of aggression whatever its source... because we are defending the principles of justice, freedom and equality on which the UN Charter has been based and these are natural rights for all peoples of the world... these rights of which the Palestinian people were deprived.

The special relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians and the circumstances which the Jordanians and Palestinians commonly lived through have imposed on us a common view with regard to the developments of the Palestinian problem... in terms of peace or war.

This view is based on a common concept of the nature of the Israeli aggression which proved to be aiming at occupying the land and imposing hegemony on the Arab citizens who indeed form an obstacle in the path of Zionist colonial and expansionist programmes. Therefore we consider such ideas which say that the struggle in Palestine is between two nationalities within a single entity as a mere theoretical view which does not reflect the reality in precise manner and therefore cannot form the basis for a practical and effective policy with which to confront the Israeli danger.

We believe that the conflict is between the legitimate owners of the land and its usurpers and this conflict over Palestine is not for Palestine alone and is not an ideological struggle between two nationalities as some like to think. It is in fact a struggle over the land and people.

Hence our policy towards the Palestine problem has been from the beginning an attempt to save the land and end the occupation and later enhancing the Palestinian presence in Palestine.

In commitment to this policy we have been all the time involved in efforts that also involve other Arab countries.

We, Jordanian and Palestinians, belong to the same and one nation which forms a target for the Israeli aggression. We respect the international community's views aimed at safeguarding world security and peace and the achievement of justice for all. We seriously are pursuing efforts for achieving this aim taking into consideration all these principles.

We in Jordan adopt all regional and international ideas towards Palestine as long as they conform with the aspirations of the Palestinian people and their national interests and not on the basis of serving Jordan's sole interests.

We accept what the Palestinians accept because they are the party who are subject to daily sufferings and continue to endure the cruel occupation rule.

Whatever efforts we had exerted were aimed at preventing further deterioration in the conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation.

There have been serious imbalances in the political and military potentials affecting a solution for the Palestine problem... developments that were beyond our means. [sentence as published These have caused a politcal deadlock in our region since 1973 despite some diplomatic activity which bore no fruit so far. This has been coupled by serious tension in other areas of the Middle East that led the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territory being pushed aside and prompted Israel to exploit these circumstances in order to consecrate and perpetuate its occupation. Israel has offered us a third option, the human option which Jordan rejected completely and absolutely. In return, we continued to play our supportive role towards our kinsmen so as not to leave them victim to Israel's pressure which aims at forcing them to abandon their land or succumb to occupation rule.

In view of the continuous deadlock and the dangerous consequences that it entails we have exerted intensive efforts on the regional and international fronts for removing all side issues that tend to deviate attention from the Palestine issue.

We were successful in winning the support of our brothers and our friends and we held the Amman summit meeting which aimed at discussing an end to the Gulf conflict so that the Arabs will have time to deal with the main problem in their region. The Arab leaders reiterated their orientation towards peace based on justice and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestine problem in all its aspects through an international conference to be held under the auspices of the Security Council and with the participation of all the permanent members of the Council and the concerned parties.

This proposal has won the support of the majority of world nations and we believe that international efforts can and should place all matters in their right perspective in our region for the achievement of a just and lasting peace that guarantees the legitimate rights and interest of all parties to the conflict and lead to the return of security and stability for all people in the area so that these people can devote their efforts and their potentials for social and economic construction. I hope that your committee will pursue its good efforts to achieve that goal.

Al-Masri, Al-Qasim To Brief Leaders om Summit

JN280955 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 87 p 1

[By a staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left for Pakistan Friday evening on the first leg of a visit to several Asian capitals where he will brief their respective leaders on the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

Mr. al-Masri is carrying messages from His Majesty King Husayn on the results of the summit and its resolutions to Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Chinese President Li Xiannian and Japanese Premier Noboru Takeshita, informed sources said.

The messages touch on the positive results of the Amman summit including a unanimous Arab stand on the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East conflict and the Lebanese problem, said the sources.

Earlier this week, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim began a mission similar to Mr. Masri's. Mr. al-Qasim visited Harare and delivered a message from the King to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, and proceeded to Lusaka, where he delivered a similar message to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

Mr. al-Qasim's mission includes meeting Pope John Paul II at the Vatican and delivering a message to the pontiff from the King. The Royal Court chief will continue his mission through Rome, Paris, Bonn and London.

Sources said Washington and Moscow were not among the capitals to be covered by the Jordanian envoys since the message of the summit had been made clear to the two superpowers through diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

Glider Operation 'Reminder' to Israel

JN281050 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Nov 87 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "The Night of Terror and Statements of Denunciation"]

[Text] The night of terror caused by an Arab eagle inside an Israeli military camp in the northern Galilee serves as a reminder that the Arabs can, after all, come up with something other than statements of denunciation. The night of terror was a veritable commando action by all standards; fourteen Israeli military personnel were killed or wounded inside their base for the loss of the martyr eagle. If commando action continues to inflict casualties on the Israeli aggressors on such a scale, Israel's political leadership is bound to rethink its calculations. Furthermore, those who think that a solution to the Palestine question need not be a priority concern would press for a speedy settlement!!

The Arabs must see to it that the night of terror marks the beginning of a new dawn. Israel's terrorist threats against Palestinians and sisterly Syria ought not to be made light of by the Arabs. They must hasten to take a united, positive stand on the terrorism threatened by Israel. The collective Arab Defense Pact was created for just such threats. The Arabs must act firmly in order to demonstrate that the Palestinian camps in Lebanon will not be a sitting duck for Israel's Air Force and that if the Israeli aggressors choose to pick on sisterly Syria, it will not be alone in the battle.

The Arabs can supply the Palestinians and Lebanese with up-to-date air defense systems and personnel to man them. The Arabs have piles of arms and ammunition, part of which they can move to Lebanon. The Arabs can also invest their widespread international diplomatic relations by urging the UN Security Council to advise Israel against mounting retaliatory terrorist action. The Arabs would thus impress upon the Israeli aggressors that terrorist truculence is not relevant anymore in the Arab world, and that the one option open to them is a just peace whereby the Palestinians' right to their land and self-determination is ensured.

Utterances of denunciation will do the Arabs no good if they let the Israeli aggressors carry out their treats; punishment rather than denunciation is the answer which the aggressors will understand, especially if the night of terror which saw the Israeli camp guards flee their positions does not turn out to have been a one-shot affair. They are in for yet darker, more terrifying nights.

The consistent Arab call for a true peace whereby the Palestinians regain their national rights continues to come up against Israeli intransigence and American collusion, and to receive nominal sympathy devoid of positive action. If the night of terror supplied an example of the other option, it is high time the Arabs made a great pan-Arab decision to buttress their peace call and remind everybody that the Arabs have not forgotten the immortal motto that whatever was taken by force can only be recovered by force, and that they have the resolve to revert to that slogan if their call for a just peace goes unheeded.

2 French Hostages Released in West Beirut

NC271649 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1638 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] According to exclusive reports received by our radio, it has just been reported that a second French hostage has been released. The first hostage was released at 1815. The two French hostages are Jean-Louis Normandin and French Journalist Roger Augue. The release took place at the Summerland Hotel in West Beirut.

AFP Details Release

NC271714 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 27 (AFP)—French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque were released here Friday at 6:30 p.m. (16:30 GMT), correspondents at the scene reported.

Mr. Normandin, 35, a technician with France's state-run Television Station A-2 had been held since March 8, 1986, while Mr. Auque, 32, a free-lance photojournalist, was abducted January 13, 1987.

The two men, both seized in mostly Muslim West Beirut, were freed at the Summerland Hotel at the southern edge of the Lebanese capital.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO), which had claimed responsibility for Mr. Normandin's kidnapping, announced late Thursday that it would release two French hostages over the next 24 hours.

No group, however, had claimed responsibility for Mr. Auque's kidnapping. [passage omitted]

The RJO, in a statement released Friday, said the release of "all" its French hostages opened a "new page in relations with the French Government, which must re-evaluate its policy in the region."

There would no longer be "half measures" with the French Government, the clandestine group said. The options remained "either an extremely positive dialogue or absolute negativism," it said.

The organisation warned France against "any delays and revision" of agreements with the RJO, saying that this would lead to "retaliation from our revolutionary brigades, who have already proved their effectiveness."

In a statement Thursday announcing its intention to release two French hostages, the RJO said it had "received assurances of the French Government's desire to change its intentions, based on respecting its obligations in the Middle East."

Paris Reports on Hostages

LD271906 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We now have a round-up on the release of the two French hostages, Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque, live from Beirut. Alain Menargues, I believe you are on the line, so you can confirm the news for us and tell us how it went.

[Menargues] Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque were released at exactly 1830 [as heard], about 100 meters from the luxury [word indistinct] complex of Summerland, south of Beirut. After asking children the way, the two journalists arrived, one after the other. [passage omitted]

Half an hour earlier Roger Auque had been put into the trunk of a red Peugeot 505. After driving for 10 minutes, the car stopped and Jean-Louis Normandin, whom he had never seen during his detention, in turn climbed into the trunk of the car. It was Jean-Louis Normandin who told Roger Auque that they were going to be released.

Ten minutes later they were pushed out of the vehicle and immediately [words indistinct] Summerland, security men from the French Embassy took charge of them. Half an hour after their release they were still being kept inside a white van by the security men at the French Embassy complex while negotiations took place between French diplomatic officials and Syrian military officials over the collection of the freed hostages. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I share your joy and my thoughts are of our compatriots who are not yet free, President Mitterrand said in a message sent to Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. Another reaction is that of Raymond Barre. Let us rejoice and hope that the other hostages may rapidly return, too. And in this communique which arrived from the Prime Minister's office—Jacques Chirac expresses his satisfaction over the release of Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque, but the prime minister does not wish to make any official statement before the two men are in Paris. [passage omitted]

Arrive at Envoy's Residence

NC272030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] It has been learned from the French Embassy in Beirut that Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Augue arrived at the residence of French Ambassador Paul Blanc in Beirut at 2000 today. Lebanese police vehicles and Syrian Security Forces guarded the two released hostages up to the Al-Barbir Museum area.

The two were released at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut at 1820 today.

Arrive in Cyprus 28 Nov

NC280728 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] French journalists Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Augue arrived in Cyprus from Lebanon this morning. The two Frenchmen were flown to Cyprus by a Lebanese Air Force Puma helicopter which took off from the helicopter pad at the Defense Ministry at 0750. They were seen off by French Embassy staff led by Ambassador Paul Blanc.

France Reportedly Paid Ransom

NC281547 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] AFP has cited a security official in one of the Islamic militia in Beirut as saying that France seems to have paid the kidnappers of Normandin and Auque a large ransom to seek their release, similar to the case of the South Korean diplomat who was freed in October in return for over a $1 million ransom.

Al-Huss on Fedayeen Operation Against Israel

NC281244 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Commenting on the heroic operation that fedayeen carried out in the occupied town of Al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona], acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said today that it had astounded the world and shocked all those who believe that the Arabs have surrendered to the status quo of defeat on their land. The operation constituted a challenge to the enemy and his might and to all his advanced warfare technology. The operation, he said, disillusioned the enemy, who behaves as if its peace can be achieved by crushing, killing, and displacing the rightful owners of the land and demolishing their houses over their heads.

Al-Huss added: We hope that this operation will move the consciences of those who control the fate of the small peoples in the world and act to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied land, give up its racist policy in the region, and accept the United Nations and Security Council resolutions.

Birri on Presidential Elections, Camps War

NC262125 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has called on the Lebanese people to tolerate the war of starvation, as they have tolerated that of invasion and occupation. He again voiced his opposition to holding the presidential elections before political reconciliation is reached. He added: We refuse the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis or security in Lebanon. We are not against the Arabization of the Lebanese security, and will back any Arab initiative that is aimed at ensuring stability in the country.

Birri warned that Israel's primary target is to destroy Lebanon and establish sectarian mini-states.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan*, Birri said that Israel wants to start with these schemes in Lebanon and then proceed to the rest of the Arab world.

With respect to the camps war, Birri said: It is high time to put an end to the tragedy of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He stressed that the decision-making in Lebanon must be Lebanese, noting his readiness to implement any initiative that brings an end to the camps war. He expressed his regret that the issue of the south is now forgotten.

Hasan Khalid on Camps War, National Crisis

PM271301 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Nov 87 p 15

[Interview with Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid by Zaki Shihab by telephone from London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith:* Have you sensed from Algerian officials any sign inspiring optimism with regard to turning the page of the camps war in Lebanon?

Khalid: Brother party leaders attended the ceremonies marking the Algerian revolution anniversary. They were headed by Ministers Walid Junblat and Nabih Birri. PLO representatives also attended. It was an opportunity to discuss the issue of the camps. I believe that something specific was reached, or let us say a practical program was agreed to apply the initiative concerning putting an end to this war which has become a chronic problem from which the Lebanese as well as the Palestinians are suffering. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Everyone admits that this war has divided the sons of the Islamic ranks. It has often reached the point of assuming a sectarian character.

Khalid: The camps war has harmed the people's concepts and causes. On the basis of our principles and understanding, we in Lebanon are eager to be part of an Islamic unity as well as a unified Islamic stand. We have often discussed this with brother men of religion in order to clarify matters and stress our ranks' unity. Through the perspicacity, understanding, and good endeavors of those working in this field, we prevented the major internecine fighting which was being awaited and encouraged by many rapacious quarters. Of course, we still have considerable hope that the efforts being exerted and the sincere people concerned will be able to overcome these difficulties and turn this painful page. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: How do you visualize a way out of the current situation in which Lebanon is embroiled?

Khalid: There has to be political understanding. Of course this political understanding should be backed by pressures on all influential parties in Lebanon to accept working for the interests of everyone. Pressure should be exerted on President al-Jumayyil, the Phalangists, and the Lebanese Forces. Pressures should also be exerted to help sisterly Syria realize the salvation it is working for.

Al-Hawadith: The Islamic meeting convenes weekly at the Fatwa [Islamic ruling] House. What have they achieved in practice through their statements?

Khalid: Through its activities, periodical meetings, and statements, the Islamic meeting has, praise be to God, secured the entry of Syrian forces which shouldered the responsibility for implementing the security plan in Beirut after the situation had become unbearable. These forces have kindly removed the militias and closed party offices. They have also helped people go about their normal life better than before. The existence of the Islamic congress and the convening of its weekly meetings threw light on many mistakes being made. It is helping to achieve good for the country. There are many divided blocs. They are of a party, ideological, or sectarian nature, whereas the Islamic meeting is of a comprehensive nature, since it deals with events and reality on the basis of a pan-Arab vision. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Has the page of [late] Prime Minister Rashid Karami been turned?

Khalid: The page cannot be turned. And if this happened, human beings would not exist on Lebanese territory. The dignity of all human beings should be preserved. When one's dignity is undermined there is no justification for one's existence. [passage omitted]

Israeli Force Enters, Searches Southern Village

NC271553 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] This morning Yumhur came under violent and sustained Israeli shelling from the occupation forces' position in Qal'at al-Shaqif. Shells fell inside, as well as on the outskirts of town, killing Sulayman 'Ulayq, 65, and wounding his brother Muhammad, 60, as they were plowing their field.

This afternoon, an Israeli force of about 150 soldiers entered the town from two directions: Arnun-Yuhmur and Arnun-Mazra'at al-Hamra'-Kawkaba. The Israeli force combed the area and withdrew after 1 hour.

Israeli 'Concentrations' Sighted in South

NC280732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports received from the south, Israeli concentrations have been sighted southeast of the town of Al-Mtullah. These reports also say that Israeli infantry forces have advanced from the occupied town of Al-Qantarah toward Waid al-Hujayr. Concentrations are also seen on the western Al-Biqa' lines.

These concentrations are being observed at a time when the Israeli enemy has decided to form committees to investigate how the border defenses were penetrated by fedayeen using hang gliders. The fedayeen succeeded in landing in an enemy camp inside the Qiryat Shemona settlement.

2,000 Strong Force Deploys

NC281231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip [in south Lebanon], an Israeli force comprising approximately 2,000 soldiers and supported by tanks mounted on huge trailers, bulldozers, and trucks entered the eastern sector of the occupied border strip and took up positions at the approaches to the town of Maydun and the Zaghlah line in western Al-Biqa' this morning.

In the western sector in the south, an Israeli force estimated to comprise 12 armored cars and trucks has entered the area via the Al-Naqurah-al-Bayyadah road and deployed on the hill of Shihin, Al-Jibbayn, and Sham'ah.

Meanwhile, an Israeli warship and a number of boats are currently being observed off the Al-Zahrani-al-Qasimiyah shore. This morning naval sources said that Israeli gunboats had intercepted the cargo ship *Prince City* off the Sidon-al-Jiyah shore and searched it for 4 hours.

In a separate development, Israeli helicopters are continuously flying over the central and western sectors in the south.

More Positions Reinforced

NC281729 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that the Israeli occupation forces have reinforced their positions on Tallat al-Ahmadiyah with Merkavva tanks and that the agent Lahd's militiamen have taken a number of military vehicles into their position at Kafr Huna in the Jazzin area. According to reports from Jazzin, a state of alert has been declared among the ranks of the agent militia personnel.

Meanwhile, Israeli MK reconnaissance aircraft have resumed flights over the entire length of the Al-Litani river. The Amal and Islamic resistance fighters along the contact lines in the western Al-Biqa' have been placed on a maximum state of alert as a precautionary measure against any attack.

Palestinians Ready for Possible Reprisal

NC281330 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP)—Schools in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon remained closed Saturday for fear of a possible Israeli reprisal for Wednesday's attack on a military camp in northern Israel in which six soldiers were killed, Palestinian sources said.

Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss meanwhile said the guerrilla attack on the Israeli camp near Qiryat Shemona had destroyed "the myth of the power and technological supremacy" of Israel.

In the refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, on the outskirts of the southern port city of Sidon, ambulances were parked and waiting in front of the hospital and clinics while medical workers were placed on a state of alert, the Palestinian sources said.

Palestinian guerrillas, who Friday evacuated positions inside 'Ayn al-Hulwah, were manning anti-aircraft positions in nearby orchards and on hillsides.

'Ayn al-Hulwah, which with its 80,000 inhabitants is Lebanon's largest refugee camp, has this year been the target of five Israeli air raids that have left 67 dead and 138 wounded.

In the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' valley of eastern Lebanon, Palestinian fighters and left-wing Lebanese militiamen have also evacuated their bases, an *Agence France-Presse* correspondent reported.

Residents of the northern Lebanon camp of Nahr al-Barid have been taking shelter in basements since Friday but the anti-aircraft defences were manned and ready for action, another correspondent at the scene said.

The commando operation Wednesday "destroyed the myth of the power and the technological supremacy of this enemy which claims to be protecting its security by killing and driving into exile the sons of just causes," Prime Minister al-Huss said.

A lone assailant, from a unit of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, flew a motorised hang glider over the Lebanese border, landed in Upper Galilee and opened fire with a Kalashnikov automatic weapon while he hurled hand grenades at Israeli soldiers.

"This operation has surprised the entire world and especially those who thought that the Arabs had accepted defeat," the Lebanese premier added.

Resistance Attacks Israeli-Lahd Position

NC291717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, resistance fighters carried out a daring operation against the Kafr Rumman position using flat-trajectory weapons and mortars at 1200 today. The position received direct hits and fires were seen burning in it. Shortly thereafter, Israeli forces and their agents bombarded Kafr Rumman, Habbush, and the environs of Al-Nabatiyah. It has been learned that the Israeli-Lahd bombardment lasted 2 hours.

Intelligence Barracks Hit

NC291829 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] The National Resistance Front issued a statement today on the operation which the martyrs Natasha Sa'd and Hazim Isma'il groups carried out last night. The target of the operation was the main barracks of the Lahd militia and Israeli intelligence located in the Al-Hariri establishment near the Kafr Falus frontline.

During the operation, the resistance fighters destroyed a 12.7-mm machinegun emplacement at the entrance to the barracks. They also ambushed a supply patrol that tried to defend the barracks. As a result, a Mercedes vehicle in which two officials from the militia and the enemy intelligence were riding was destroyed, and one of two armored personnel carriers accompanying the patrol was damaged, leaving their occupants either dead or wounded.

Al-Warwar Security Forces Institute Shelled

NC281537 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1518 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] A real human massacre has been carried out at the Al-Warwar Internal Security Forces Institute. According to preliminary information, 6 soldiers were killed and 15 others wounded as a result of the shelling, which was targeted against the institute and residential areas in Kafr Shima [in East Beirut].

It has been learned that the institute was hit by two tank shells originating from Al-Shuwayfat at 1610, at a time when the soldiers were conducting training.

Casualty Toll Reported

NC281824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Internal Security Forces' sources have said that 10 soldiers were killed and 20 others wounded when a shell hit the Al-Warwar Internal Security Forces Institute this evening. The shell fell on the institute during the violent clashes that were then raging along the Al-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima combat lines.

Security Forces Statement

NC290743 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Excerpts] When the security situation flared violently on the Al-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima and Al-'Amrusiyah-Bsaba combat lines yesterday, an artillery shell fell in the courtyard at the Internal Security Forces Institute in Al-Warwar in Al-Hadath, killing 9 persons, including 8 members of the Internal Security Forces, and wounding 35 others, including 32 Security Forces members. [passage omitted]

The Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces issued a statement on the Al-Warwar Institute incident last night. The statement said: At 1640 yesterday, an artillery shell penetrated the outside wall of the Internal Security Forces Institute building in Al-Warwar. The shell exploded in the institute's courtyard, where members of the forces were engaged in physical training. Eight trained gendarmes were martyred and 32 others wounded, according to preliminary statistics.

Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has regarded the incident as a national tragedy. He said: It is most painful and heart-rending that those young martyrs and wounded had dedicated themselves to protecting the homeland and the citizenry. They were killed or wounded by shells citizens fire at each other. Minister al-Rasi extended his condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished the wounded a speed recovery and the homeland salvation from such agonies.

Pro-Iranian Group Reported To Possess Stingers

NC281141 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 28 (AFP)—U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles have fallen into the hands of an unnamed pro-Iranian guerrilla group in Lebanon, the *Al-Khalij* newspaper reported there Saturday.

The United Arab Emirates daily, quoting Lebanese sources close to the anti-Israeli resistance in southern Lebanon, said the guerrillas had "exploited their ties with Iran to purchase the Stingers from Afghan rebels" fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

It did not specify how many Stinger missiles the group had obtained. Members of the guerrilla group have completed a training course on launching the sophisticated shoulder-fired missiles, the paper added.

Tehran recently claimed to have obtained and copied a large number of the missiles, which the United States has supplied to mujahidin resistance groups in Afghanistan. U.S. officials have said the Iranians may have seized the weapons from Afghan rebel convoys.

Syrian Position in Tripoli Attacked; Casualties

NC280755 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Using hand grenades and machineguns, an armed group of the 9 February Organization attacked a position of the Syrian forces in the Al-Makhfar Building on the Al-Tabbanah Highway in Tripoli at approximately midnight last night. A spokesman for the organization has stated that there were several casualties. The sound of gunfire was heard for 1 hour after the attack. Patrols were deployed in the area where the incident took place.

9 February Claims Attack

NC280942 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge near a Syrian checkpoint at Al-Qubbah Square in Tripoli shortly before midnight last night.

East Beirut Explosion Leaves 2 Slightly Injured

NC271748 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] An explosive device went off under an automobile parked near the Sfayr Restaurant at Al-Hayiik Circle in Sin al-Fil area [in East Beirut], this afternoon. The explosion left two citizens slightly wounded.

Release of Two French Hostages Reported

JN280614 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Beirut—French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque were released yesteray. The two hostages were handed over through Syrian observers. News agencies said this new release came as a result of the intensive and humanitarian efforts exerted by Syria. Some news agencies noted that during the visit to Damascus by French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond on 10 October, Syria exerted immense and intensive efforts in this regard.

Syria, Iran Aided Release

JN271818 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] An obvious satisfaction and happiness is prevalent in Damascus over the release of the two French hostages.

Our sources in the Syrian capital informed us that this release is the crowning of the extensive humanitarian efforts which competent Syrian authorities have exerted, with Iranian assistance, to ensure their release. Our sources added that since French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond's 10 October visit to Damascus, Syrian authorities have been exerting immense and extensive efforts in this regard, and the subject was broached with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi during his visit to Syria 1 week after the French foreign minister's visit. Thanks to Syrian-Iranian efforts, the happy result was achieved.

I have learned that Syrian officers received the two hostages in the Summerland Hotel in West Beirut and that they are expected to be transferred to Damascus later. Then, they will be handed over to the French Government's representatives who will take them to France.

Chirac Thanks Al-Asad

JN281727 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Nov 87

["Text" of message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to President Hafiz al-Asad on the release of two French hostages in Lebanon; date not given]

[Text] Your excellency the president, following the release of Jean-louis Normandin and Roger Auque, it pleases me to express to you my warm thanks for the help provided by your country to reach this happy ending. The French Government particularly values Syria's action, especially since it is aware of the extent of the difficulties that obstructed this release operation. It believes this action is a special manifestation of the kind of existing relations binding France to Syria. Encouraged by these relations, I hope that the Syrian authorities will continue to use their influence to secure the release of the remaining French hostages held captive in Lebanon at the earliest opportunity.

Your excellency, please accept my best regards and my personal sentiments.

[signed] Jacques Chirac

Raimond Offers Thanks

JN281251 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond telephoned Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today and expressed the French Government's thanks and gratitude for Syria's efforts to secure the release of the two French hostages who were held in Lebanon.

During the phone call, the French foreign minister asked Al-Shar' to convey French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's greetings and appreciation to President Hafiz al-Asad for his humanitarian assistance and commendable efforts in the affair. [passage omitted]

Reportage, Reaction to Qibyah Operation

Letter Sent to Al-Asad

JN291243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Comrade Hafiz al-Asad's principles and values are daily being translated into militant actions and revolutionary concepts that pave the way for the strugglers to achieve the Arab nation's dignity and loftiness. It is the historical leadership which hammers out the new Arab epoch during which the brilliant Arab future will be outlined. Struggler Khalid Muhammad Akar, one of the heroes of the Qibyah martyrs operation, has sent a letter of appreciation to President Hafiz al-Asad before launching the operation. The following is the text of the letter:

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: I thought it fit to remember you while on my way to Palestine. I also remembered your people, party, and army. You are the one who said that martyrs are the most generous people in the world and mankind's noblest creatures. You are also the one who said that Palestine is the southern part of Syria, and that there can be no subjugation to the enemy and its masters, no matter how tyrannical they become or how many weapons of destruction they possess.

I am one of your Syrian citizens. I have learned from you lessons of altruism and sacrifice. I will know no rest until my blood becomes fire that will purify Palestine, my homeland and your homeland.

I promise that all the strugglers and all my comrades will face the enemy with a heart that only knows the determination to score victory and to uphold the banner of armed struggle. This banner is that of Palestine, Syria, and all the revolutionaries for the sake of this nation's glory in its unceasing struggle against the Zionists. While proceeding on this course, I only recall the great heritage of our Arab people in Damascus, Jerusalem, Baghdad, the [Arabian] Peninsula, Lebanon, the Aures and all the peaks on the Golan Heights and Mount Hermon, in Sinai and southern Lebanon, in Al-Khalisa [Qiryat Shemona], and in Umm al-'Aqarib ending with the moment of explosion represented in Al-Sadat's defeat at the hands of Khalid al-Islambuli. While proceeding on this course, I am permeated with a boundless confidence that the liberation of the land and victory over the enemy are two things that must take place. This will happen thanks to your encouragement and support for all the honest strugglers and thanks to your continued support for our militant Palestinian revolution and for our Palestinian people who wage a battle of confrontation against the enemy in and outside Palestine.

This letter could be the last one that my family, friends, and comrades will read. It is a letter of faith in our people's ability to triumph, foil the conspiracy, and defeat those who adopt deviationist and capitulatory programs led by the Arab-Palestinian right. It is also an embodiment of the great pan-Arab determination that Palestine is the heart of this nation, the heart of Arab unity. No unity can be achieved without Palestine. No real struggle can take place without Palestine. I have learned this from the steadfastness of the Qasiyun mountain in Damascus, from the steadfastness of the domes of the churches and the minarets in Jerusalem, and from the steadfastness of Yusuf al-'Azmah, Salih al-'Ali, 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, Hasan al-Kharrat, and Ibrahim Hananu. I have learned a lesson in the PFLP-GC that there is no way to the homeland other than through persistent struggle and direct confrontation with the enemy. I have also learned that there are no regional or national considerations with respect to martyrdom and that there is also no independent decision-making except that which completes the decision of confrontation.

One expects nothing from those who became weary, whose larynxes were paralyzed by defeat and disgrace, who have despaired, have disavowed the history of their nation and people, have become involved in conspiracies, and have begged the enemy and the Camp David emblems for a capitulatory solution. This is so because what they did and are doing is only to pant after U.S.- Zionist plans and solutions, which is a stab in the back not only of Palestine but also of the entire history of pan-Arab struggle against the enemy and its masters. Comrade struggler, allow me to say that a people who are capable of offering one martyr after the other will inevitably triumph, God willing.

Mr President, I extend greetigns to you in my name and on behalf of my Tunisian comrade and of my two Palestinian Arab comrades who believe that martyrdom is the course of liberation of the land and the homeland. Revolution until the land and the invidiuals are liberated.

[Signed] Struggler Khalid Muhammad Akar

Comments on Martyrs' Letter

JN280835 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Victory of Steadfastness and Liberation Will," *Al-Thawrah* says: You are the pan-Arab guarantee for continuing the pan-Arab armed struggle to liberate Palestine. With this militant spirit, the heroes of the Qibya Martyrs Operation addressed the struggling leader Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Asad's historic leadership of the Arab liberation struggle has become an expression of the will of steadfastness and liberation of the Arab people and their sons of resistance in all fields of confrontation against the Zionist enemy.

Al-Thawrah continues: These pan-Arab militant intentions appear in the words of the letter of the heroes of the daring fedayeen operation. They are categorical evidence of the continuing will for revolutionary confrontation with the plots of the imperialist Zionist enemy and its agents and those capitulating to the suspect deals.

Al-Thawrah says: The Palestinian and Lebanese resistance men's honesty and high appreciation for Syria's firm course are an extension of the pan-Arab stand of steadfastness. Arab Syria turned this steadfastness into a firm course and principled stand. Syria expresses these stands in its pan-Arab steadfastness in the face of aggressive plans aimed against our Arab nation. It also confirms these stands through its immense support for the course of resistance and struggle against the Zionist enemy. Arab Syria has become the steadfast bastion of Arab liberation struggle and a source of support and entrenchment of the line of armed confrontation and struggle. Steadfast Syria is the first trench for confrontation with the Zionist enemy and the guarantee for protecting Arab territory and rights. Syria's stubborn struggle and the Arab masses' rallying around its steadfast historical decision are a certain road to extract Arab rights, regain occupied Arab territory, and safeguard the central cause of Arab struggle and Palestine.

Al-Thawrah says: The arch of heroic struggle which extends from southern Lebanon to the occupied Arab territory and which passes through occupied Golan has become more solid and bright because of the challenge to the Zionist enemy. This enemy is receiving painful blows, thus disproving all its theories on a secure border. This militant arch is burning with the spirit of struggle thanks to Syria's support and firm stands. These stands give hope for all the nation's masses on the victory of the will for liberation and the toppling of the liquidation and capitulation plot.

Reaction to Israeli Threats

JN300856 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Nov 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "No Relinquishment of Land and Rights", *Tishrin* newspaper says: The daring fedayeen operation, which inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist enemy army, is still drawing more Arab and international reaction. The operation surprised the enemy leaders, who leveled threats against Syria because Syria sponsors the national awakening movement and the national resistance and reinforces the spirit of steadfastnes and fighting among Arab strugglers.

Tishrin adds: Syria, which confronted the Camp David conspiracy and held off its serious repercussions through building strategic parity, and which employed all its potential and resources in the interest of the battle, has succeeded in reversing the balances of power, aborting the Zionist invasion, and forcing the NATO fleets to withdraw. This is because Syria's steadfastness has produced a brave resistance in Lebanon and reinforced the fighting Palestinian resistance, which confronted the deviants in the arena and refused to relinquish the land and rights.

In conclusion, *Tishrin* says: The enemy leaders' threats to Syria are not new. The enemy fears Syria's persistent action to achieve strategic parity. It also fears the brave resistance and creative potentials produced from Syrian steadfastness which can reverse matters in favor of the Arab cause within a short time. Syria is firm in its national course, not fearing any threats. It will continue its confrontation with the Camp David parties and deviation in the Palestinian arena. It will also continue to offer every support to the Arab resistance men.

Commentary on U.S. Stand

JN281508 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1238 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has condemned the fedayeen operation carried out by the PFLP-GC against an Israeli army camp in northern Palestine. A U.S. State Department spokesman has stated that violence is the enemy of peace and that its advocates threaten the Middle East peace efforts.

The U.S. Government is entitled to its own opinion about the fedayeen operation or other operations, whether or not others agree with it. The U.S. Government is entitled to its own opinion and stand. Likewise, others are entitled to their own opinion of the U.S. opinion and stands. What comes to mind first when one hears U.S. Administration spokesmen talk about their repugnance of violence and apprehension that violence might jeopardize the peace efforts, is that the U.S. rulers have turned into white-winged angels of peace flying over the Middle East region with olive branches and bouquets of flower in their hands. They are disturbed if a bullet is shot from here or there and they faint if they see blood gushing out of a child's finger.

Very regrettably, the U.S. rulers are not at all like this. Their denunciation of violence is actually a strong defense of violence. The U.S. rulers are primarily and perhaps totally responsible for any violence that may exist in the region. All of these rulers' words about peace, the denunciation of violence, and their concern for peace efforts will not help conceal their full responsibility for all of the past and present violence in this part of the world.

In order to believe the U.S. Government spokesmens' words about their condemnation of violence, one must erase one's memory and forget all facts related to violence, aggression, and war in the region. Otherwise, one will find that the U.S. denunciation of violence is biased, unfair, and intended only to defend the Israeli aggressors and terrorists. The U.S. rulers condemned a successful attack carried out by one or more resistance men. However, why were they blind to the terrorist and aggressive acts carried out by Israel, using U.S. aircraft and weapons, against the Palestinian Arab people and against children, the elderly, and other peoples in Lebanon and elsewhere? Why aren't they aroused by the crimes of murder, torture, and displacement that are perpetrated daily by the Israeli occupation soldiers in the occupied Arab territories? Why aren't the U.S. rulers aroused by Israel's terrorist and aggressive measures in southern Lebanon? Why aren't they concerned about Israel's policy of occupying others' lands, confiscating others' rights, and rebelling against the United Nations and the international community? Why are the U.S. rulers ignoring the Israeli rulers' policy of state terrorism?

The United States blames the victim if he raises his voice or fist in the face of a criminal or murderer, and remains silent over the assassination of an entire people and over this people's deprivation of their basic rights, foremost of which is the right to live in a homeland and the right to self-determination. The

Israeli rulers' terrorism, crimes of war and genocide, and their insistence on occupying the lands of others and confiscating others' rights are the main source of violence in the region. The one who wishes to combat regional violence should deal with the principal hotbed of violence, and not deny the victims of aggression their right to defend themselves against aggression and occupation.

Information Minister, Iranian Envoy Meet

Discuss Role of Media

JN291347 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Damascus—This morning Information Minister Muhammad Salman received Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Republic of Iran in Damascus. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the role of information and its effect on education as well as in strengthening the ties of friendship between peoples. The ambassador affirmed Iran's support for Syria in its struggle against the Zionist enemy until the usurped Arab territory is liberated.

Relations, Ties Examined

LD291840 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Syria Mohammad Hasan Akhtari held talks with Syrian Minister of Information Muhammad Salman here Sunday to discuss Tehran-Damascus 'strategic' relations and expansion of bilateral ties.

The Syrian minister emphasized that Syria's stance concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi-imposed war is 'unchanged'.

Following the Amman Arab summit, Syrian officials have repeatedly stressed that Syria's pursuit of 'friendly' relations with Iran in various fields is a principal and permanent base of it policies.

Afghanistan

Politburo Views Convocation of Grand Assembly

LD290022 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee Politburo met today and discussed the convocation of the historic Grand Assembly, which will be held in Kabul. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo asserted that the Grand Assembly is being convened under special and sensitive circumstances. The Grand Assembly will endorse the DRA Constitution, the constitution of democracy and national reconciliation, and elect the country's president. The Politburo verified materials and documents for the Grand Assembly.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed new DRA medals and orders to be named after national figures and heroes of Afghanistan, and noted that these heroes' names are recorded in the history of Afghanistan in gold ink and remain in people's memories. The Afghan's heroic and sacrificing struggle for freedom and independence against the British colonialists illuminates the pages of our country's history. In light of the policy of national reconciliation, and in order to preserve the memory of historic figures and national heroes, to rally and unify the national progressive and patriotic forces, and to boast of the patriotic spirit of people, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo decided that the issue of naming the DRA medals and orders after historic figures and the heroes of Afghanistan is to be taken under consideration.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also heard a report by Comrade Najimuddin Kawiani about the results of a visit to the CSSR by a Central Committee delegation. They called it positive.

The Central Committee Politburo examined other domestic and international matters.

Grand Assembly Session Opens in Kabul 29 Nov

Najibullah Speaks at Opening

LD291211 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, 29 Nov (*Bakhtar*)—The glorious meeting of the Afghan people's historical Grand Assembly began this morning in the hall of Kabul's Polytechnic Institute with the participation of 1,500 elected people's representatives and foreign and domestic guests.

During the session, which began with a recitation from the holy Koran, Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered his speech under the title: The New Constitution of Afghanistan; The Most Important Document of the National Reconciliation Policy.

During the historical Grand Assembly session, which is continuing its work, the people's worthy representatives will decide on the approval of the new constitution and on the election of the country's president.

Rocket Attack Shakes Assembly

BK251339 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT
29 Nov 87

[By Anne Penketh]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 29 (AFP)—Four powerful explosions from Afghan rebel rockets shook at Kabul Polytechnic on Sunday where Afghan leader Najibullah was presenting a new constitution to some 1,500 delegates at a specially-convened conference.

Diplomatic sources said the explosions, caused by long-range rockets were fired from west of Kabul by the U.S.-backed guerrillas; all fell inside the city. One source said that one of the rockets, with a range of 10 kilometres, landed close to the meeting hall which had been ringed by Soviet and Afghan troops in a massive show of force. Another source reported that one person was injured in the attack.

But Afghan official Assad Keshtmand told AFP that the rockets all fell "in the mountains" which fringe the city of two million.

The rebel attack was a "symbolic" rejection by the rebels of the national constitution, the diplomatic sources said.

Mr Najibullah did not flinch when the first blast rocked the polytechnic as he was 10 minutes into his speech just before 10:00 A.M. an AFP reporter witnessed. He carried on speaking unperturbed as the other three blasts went off at two minute intervals. Diplomats said the rockets could have been remote controlled.

Later, in a discussion with delegates from the floor, Mr Najibulla said, "you heard the blind firings and sounds" in a reference to the explosions which caused delegates to shift nervously in their seats.

Mr Keshtmand, deputy chief of the International Relations Department of the ruling PDPA Central Committee, said the rebels "wanted to sabotage the jirgah. But what did they achieve? Nothing has changed. On the contrary, it only strengthened our resolve."

Last month, during a conference of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), guerrillas fired four rockets towards the polytechnic where the meeting was being held. Four casualties were reported in the attack, but the rockets fell outside the conference grounds.

Planes circled overhead for the rest of Mr Najibullah's hour-long speech on Sunday.

Three Western journalists, including an AFP reporter, who drove through Kabul after the rocket attack, saw that Afghan and Soviet soldiers had sealed off a two square kilometre zone around the Kabul Polytechnic. Unusually large numbers of troops were in the streets outside the sealed off area, but people were going about their business apparently untroubled by the Soviet armoured personnel carriers moving through the streets.

In another development, Mr Najibullah admitted that the eastern city of Khowst—situated about 160 kilometres west of Kabul—was under siege by the guerrillas. The 50 tons of food being flown in nightly to the population of the besieged city was "not enough," he said.

Western diplomats had reported that Khowst had been under virtual siege for the last two weeks. A group of Western journalists here on Saturday saw a convoy of about 400 Soviet military vehicles, including tanks, preparing to move out of Kabul on the road leading to Khowst via the southern highway.

Throwing the discussion open to the floor, Mr Najibullah warned that the government would give the rebels six days before launching an offensive to break the "economic blockade."

But after a debate with delegates, during which one speaker stressed that the current gathering was a "peace jirgah and not a war jirgah," the assembly voted to give the rebels 21 days to lift the siege.

Also Sunday, delegates voted, with one dissenter, to mention the PDPA in the preamble of the constitution, thus confirming the party's preeminent role. The delegates also voted by raising green cards, to change the name of the country from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to Afghanistan.

The two-day jirgah, which opened Sunday, was Monday to elect a president after approving the Constitution Sunday. Mr Najibullah was elected president in September and is widely expected to be confirmed at the jirgah. Under the new constitution, the president is elected for a seven-year term, which may be renewed once only for a further seven years.

Mr Najibullah has said that "as long as the bloodshed continues" in Afghanistan, the PDPA would retain control of the presidency and Armed Forces.

The Afghan officials have still not officially revealed the name or number of the presidential candidates.

Pakistani-based Afghan rebels have condemned the Loya Jirgah here as being "non-representative," and Western diplomats told AFP that the jirgah was a "party event" despite attempts by the Soviet-backed authorities to demonstrate "democratic" practices by permitting parties other than the PDPA to register.

But the Constitution stressed that all the parties are under the control of an umbrella national front, led by the PDPA, "which unites political parties."

The Loya Jirgah, representing tribesmen, workers and peasants, has the power to elect the president, and is considered the "highest manifestation of the will of the people" of Afghanistan, according to the new constitution.

Traditionally, loya jirgahs are convened at significant moments of the country's development and the present meeting is only the seventh this century, according to Afghan officials.

Concerning a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Mr Najibullah drew applause when he said the government wanted to "expedite the return of the limited Soviet contingent," which Western experts estimate to number 115,000 men.

But he did not specify a date for a Soviet withdrawal, saying "we will persistently work for achieving a successful ending" at the indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva for a negotiated settlement to the almost eight-year-old conflict.

Assembly Continues 30 Nov

LD301007 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 29, *Bakhtar*—The session of historic Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, which was opened here today is continuing.

Today's session which was presided over by 'Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of National Front, ratified the agenda of Loya Jirgah on the consideration and approval of the draft of the new constitution of Afghanistan and the election of president of the republic.

After the approval of the agenda of the session, Dr. Najibullah read the main report of the session on the new constitution which was acclaimed by the people's deputies at Loya Jirgah.

A number of people's deputies at the Loya Jirgah delivered speeches ratifying the main report read by Dr. Najibullah.

The people's deputies in their speeches described the Loya Jirgah which is being held here as the highest manifestation of the will of the people of Afghanistan for the establishment of peace and cessation of war and bloodshed as a great historical event. They called on all peace-loving people of Afghanistan to keep and rehabilitate the national unity of Afghans in the light of the new constitution and to take an active and patriotic part in the constitution of Afghanistan.

Over one thousand five hundred elected deputies of the people have participated in the Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly. Moreover, more than four hundred domestic and foreign guests have attended the Loya Jirgah.

Najibullah Views Constitution

LD300934 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 29, *Bakhtar*—"The new constitution reiterates that the existing forms of properties constitute the economic base in the country", said Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of DRA in his speech delivered at Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) opened here today. The constitution assigns the state to preserve these forms and to promote them.

Touching upon the significance of the new constitution, the Afghan party and state leader said that the constitution is not only an important domestic document but it is valuable at international level as well.

The international significance of the constitution lies in the fact, he said, that this is a national one from the stand point of content.

Afghanistan was a non-aligned country in the past and will be so also in future.

"We are prepared to express affection with all of our neighbours. First of all with our northern, eastern, western neighbours," said Najibullah promoting the economic and international cooperation.

The DRA tries, he said, not only to establish peace zone but also wants to create an area of trade cooperation all along the borders of Afghanistan. This, the Afghan party and state leader stressed, undoubtedly effects positively the whole situation in the region.

The DRA once again confirms its sincere and real efforts to establish goodwill relations with Pakistan and Iran.

The DRA invites them to cooperate jointly to re-establish peace and security in the region of turmoil with political realism. This is what the content of the new constitution calls for.

It is a national and international duty to bring about favourable conditions through the realization of the national reconciliation policy for the return of the Soviet limited contingents to their peaceful country.

In this regard, efforts would be consistently made in Geneva toward the successful conclusion of Afghanistan-Pakistan talks.

The constitution draft, which is being presented to the people's deputies at Loya Jirgah, is different from the temporary constitution, that is, the Basic Principles of the DRA which was adopted in 1980, in that the authors of each article of it are our working and knowing people, and does not reflect the views of the PDPA only.

The Constitution of Afghanistan serves the demand for peace and security and the extention of international cooperation. It contributes in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid and fascism.

In short, it is the constitution of peace and national reconciliation.

The nature of foreign policy of Afghanistan is unchangeable, Dr. Najibullah emphasized.

'Nervous' Troops Fire on 2 Cars in Kabul

BK300920 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, Nov 30 (AFP)—Nervous Afghan troops Monday opened fire on two cars trying to force roadblocks set up around a meeting hall where 1,500 delegates were resuming discussions on a new Afghan constitution, causing casualties.

In the first incident, an Afghan guerilla commander from Qandahar, General Muslim, who two years ago went over to the government side, tried to force a roadblock set up outside a Kabul hotel where Western journalists were staying. The hotel is situated a few hundred yards (metres) from the polytechnic where a "Loya Jirgah", or Grand Assembly, was about to enter its second day.

Afghan party officials said they would present detailed information on casualties later. They said that General Muslim had refused to stop at the checkpoint and opened fire on the troops.

Western journalists saw two bodies being taken out of the car, and another person who was apparently wounded.

Afghan party official Hashmat Kaihani, of the Ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's (PDPA) Central Committee, told reporters that General Muslim usually travelled with armed guards, apparently for fear of attack by Muslim guerrillas.

Afghan officials said it was not the first time that General Muslim had tried to force roadblocks. He has been a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council since joining the government side.

In the second incident, according to Western reporters, troops opened fire on another car trying to break through the checkpoint manned by Afghan troops. The number of casualties were unknown.

The latest incidents were a further sign of the increasing nervousness of Afghan authorities as the jirgah continues.

On Sunday, rebels fired four rockets into the vicinity of the meeting hall as Afghan leader Najibullah was presenting the new constitution.

Delegates on Monday continued their laborious discussion on the Constitution, approving provisions which call for a national assembly to be set up in the six months following the adoption of the Constitution.

The Constitution was expected to be adopted in full by the end of the day (Monday). The meeting is also to elect a president, widely expected to be Mr. Najibullah himself, who took over as head of state in September.

Najibullah Performs Friday Prayers in Kabul

LD271800 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today went to the Pol-e Kheshti communal mosque and performed the Friday prayers with Kabul citizens.

Also taking part in the Friday prayers with Comrade Najibullah were members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and a number of delegates to the Grand Assembly. [passage omitted]

Statement on Foreign Involvement With Rebels

LD291805 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] A *Bakhtar* announcement dated 11 November 1987 stated that a so-called incident had taken place in which three foreigners of European origin, accompanying a band of the irreconcilable groups, entered DRA soil from Pakistani territory and engaged in an armed clash with border forces. In this regard, *Bakhtar* is authorized to state that all efforts by the responsible authorities to investigate this event and in particular (?reveal) the identity of the aforementioned individuals and their subsequent fate has yielded no results.

It is necessary to state that several times, European-looking foreigners have been seen among the irreconcilable counterrevolutionary units along the border regions of Iran and Pakistan and in other parts of Afghanistan. According to substantial information by the authorized organs of the DRA, the extremist counterrevolutionary groups have received orders from their headquarters that they should not leave behind dead or wounded foreigners at the scene of incidents and should take all measures, including their physical elimination, in case of their possible capture by government forces.

In this regard, *Bakhtar* is authorized to state that the DRA provides all legal protection for the representatives of foreign mass media who visit Afghanistan. However, the DRA cannot maintain the security of foreign citizens, who in contravening the laws of Afghanistan and international norms, enter Afghanistan secretly and illegally in the company of extremist armed groups.

Presidium Approves Political Party Formation

LD272206 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] In accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 11 of the law on political parties and the bill on the method of assessing applications for the formation and registration of political parties, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium comprehensively discussed and assessed the PDPA's application for registration. It approved the PDPA's registration with the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium Department of Political Parties in accordance with the bill on the method of assessing applications for the formation and registration of political parties.

The DRA Revolutionary Council also comprehensively assessed separate applications by the founding members of the Revolutionary Organization of Afghan Workers; the Organization of Afghan Workers; the Islamic Party of Afghan People; and the Justice Party of Afghan Peasants. This assessment was made in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 11 of the law on political parties.

In supporting a multiparty system and the need for an effective role in maintaining the most important goal in our society—the establishment and consolidation of national peace—the parties requested official recognition as independent political parties in preparation for their practical activities.

At its last session, in considering the goodwill of the Afghan people for the policy of national reconciliation and the maintenance of nationwide peace, and for the purpose of the democratization of political and social life and the active participation of all parties and political organizations and citizens of the DRA in the country's political life, and in accordance with Article 10 of the law on political parties, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium approved the registration of the above parties with the Revolutionary Council Presidium Department of Political Parties.

Nomad Prisoners Pardoned To Mark Grand Assembly

LD272126 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] In honor of the Grand Assembly and at the request of representatives to the nationwide assembly of the DRA's nomads, and in realizing the lofty aims of the national reconciliation policy, the DRA Revolutionary

Council has announced the pardon of a number of prisoners belonging to the nomadic tribes. This pardon is granted under the terms of Paragraph 6, Article 43, of the DRA Basic Principles.

In explaining this, a DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium Secretariat source added that the resolution to release these prisoners has been conveyed to the relevant authorities.

Bangladesh

Reportage on State of Emergency Developments

Curfew Imposed on Five Cities

BK271822 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1645 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] The government has clamped a curfew in the metropolitan areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Naryanganj and Rajshahi cities. It will be effective from 2400 [1800 GMT] tonight. The curfew will remain in force until 0600 [0000 GMT] Sunday, 29 November. The police commissioners of the Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna metropolitan areas have imposed the curfew in their respective areas, and district administrators of Narayanganj and Rajshamernment offices, [word indistinct], shops and markets, and other establishments in these cities will remain closed during the curfew hours. All mills and factories and other industrial establishments throughout the country will remain closed until 0600 Sunday, 29 November. All educational institutions will remain closed until 4 December [words indistinct] electricity, newspapers, news agencies, radio and television, water supplies, and post and telegraph will not come under the purview of the curfew orders.

Dhaka Calm After Curfew Imposed

BK280620 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 28 (AFP)—Dhaka appeared calm Saturday as security forces patrolled the streets of the Bangladeshi capital to enforce a 30-hour curfew, witnesses said.

The curfew was imposed Friday night after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad proclaimed a state of emergency, giving him sweeping powers to suspend fundamental rights after a series of anti-government strikes and rallies.

Witnesses said police and paramilitary forces, armed with machine guns and rifles and travelling in trucks, patrolled the mostly deserted downtown streets of Dhaka. Fixed police pickets were also in evidence.

All government offices, banks, businesses and schools have been ordered closed until Sunday morning when the curfew is due to end.

In the early hours of Saturday, some people were seen walking quickly with bags and baskets as police watched. Witnesses said they were possibly passengers who had arrived Friday night in capital by railway, bus or boat and were left stranded overnight.

Sources at Dhaka's International Airport said no flights had left or arrived since late Friday night. They could not say specifically if the airport was closed to traffic. Dhaka's train and bus terminals were reported closed.

Witnesses reported small demonstrations early Saturday in districts of Dhaka, shouting slogans and disappearing into lanes on sight of police. But police confirmation was not available.

Prohibitory Orders Detailed

BK271800 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1640 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] The power vested under the Emergency Power [words indistinct] the government for the security and safety of the people and out of the need to maintain law and order, have banned all types of strikes and lockouts in all parts of the country, including industrial and commercial establishments, plants, and factories. This order will remain in force for 2 months.

In accordance with the power vested under the Emergency Power [words indistinct] 1987, the government—for the security and safety of the people and out of a need to maintain law and order—has prohibited all types of processions, demonstrations, and meetings both indoor and outside, as well as taking part in processions, demonstrations, and gatherings. However, this order will not be applicable for any funeral processions, burial party or religious congregations in mosques, places of worship or in temples.

Emergency Power Rules Issued

BK280150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The president has promulgated the Emergency Powers Ordinance 1987 to preserve the safety and security of the people and the state and economic life of the country and to maintain public order.

The ordinance promulgated in Dhaka last night said it has become essential and indispensable to adopt certain special measures to ensure supply of essential commodities and services to the community. The ordinance has been issued since the parliament is not in session now and whereas the president is satisfied that necessary conditions prevailed for taking certain immediate measures. The proclamation of state of emergency shall be enforced forthwith.

The government has framed certain regulations to be called emergency powers regulations under the Emergency Powers Ordinance 1987. The regulations were framed yesterday in order to protect the security or interests of the state and public and to maintain law and order. Under the regulation any police official may take any necessary measures, including use of force, to enforce them. If anyone violates any orders issued under these regulations, he or she shall be liable to suffer rigorous imprisonment for a maximum period of 3 years or fine or both.

Opposition Parties React 'Sharply'

BK280328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, a state of emergency has been imposed and fundamental rights suspended. Proclaiming the state of emergency last night, the Bangladesh president, General Ershad, said the step has been taken to counter internal disturbances which threaten the security and economic life of the country. Processions, rallies, and demonstrations have been banned throughout the country. Strikes in industrial and commercial organizations have been prohibited. The emergency, which came into effect from 2200 last night, was proclaimed a day before the opposition was to begin a 72-hour general strike.

Our Dhaka correspondent Sanat Mukherjee says the government clamped curfew in the capital, Dhaka, and in Chittagong, Khulna, Narayanganj, and Rajshahi for 30 hours from midnight last night. As the curfew came into effect, security forces began patroling the streets of Dhaka. Police were seen announcing the curfew over loudspeakers. The government has ordered all educational institutions in the country closed. The authorities yesterday closed Dhaka's two main universities and ordered the students to vacate the hostels. The students refused to do so. Police pickets have been posted as tension prevails in the campus.

The opposition political parties in Bangladesh have reacted sharply to the emergency order. The BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League] party leader, Mr Abdur Razzak, warned that the latest step by the government will push the country to a dangerous situation. He reiterated that their agitational program would continue. This is the second time that emergency was imposed in Bangladesh. In 1974, President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed a state of emergency following disastrous floods.

Interior Minister on News Control

BK280924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, several political leaders and activists have been taken into custody after the imposition of emergency last night. Talking to foreign correspondents in Dhaka today, the Bangladesh information minister, Mr Anwar Zahid, said that publication and broadcast of news which violates emergency provisions have been banned. The prohibitory orders are also applicable to Dhaka-based foreign journalists. The minister said the government is ready to start dialogue with opposition parties on political questions. He, however, ruled out President Ershad's resignation.

Justifying the imposition of emergency, Mr Zahid said that it was to save the country from total chaos and disorder. He said the country is losing $50 million a day at present.

Our Dhaka correspondent Sarat Mukherjee reports that security forces have been posted at all important places and patroling has been intensified. Two leaders of the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], Mirza Ghulam Hafiz and Mr Zillur Rahman, are reported arrested.

Blackout on Foreign Media

BK280940 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Nov 28 (AFP)—Bangladeshi authorities Saturday imposed a blackout on foreign journalists covering political developments in the country after a state of emergency was declared late Friday.

Information Minister Anwar Zahid told a group of foreign reporters and Bangladeshi journalists working for foreign media organisations: "You cannot report prohibited things. You can only report on legal activity." He said the ban covered reports on demonstrations, arrests, opposition parties and political activities in general.

The foreign press is also banned from all "commentary and criticism" of the state of emergency.

Mr Zahid said: "You'll have to refer only to official sources... Don't expect any flexibility." If journalists transgressed the new regulations, he said, "We shall be very sorry about it."

Mr Zahid also confirmed that several opposition leaders were arrested Friday "and some more will be arrested."

He made the comment in answer to a question about the fate of the acting leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Mirza Golam Hafiz, and the former secretary general of the Awami League, Zillur Rahman. "Some of the leaders have been arrested and some more will be arrested," he said.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Friday declared a state of emergency for 20 days, which can be prolonged if needed with parliamentary approval.

Foreign and domestic journalists received official passes Saturday to allow them to travel freely in Dhaka and pass police checkpoints on the city's main streets. [passage omitted]

Ershad Addresses Nation 28 Nov

BK281530 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1302 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Address to the nation by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad; place not given—live]

[Text] God is merciful, peace be upon you. Dear countrymen, greetings. You have already learned that a state of emergency has been declared in the country, and I feel it is my duty to place before you why and under what circumstances I had to take this constitutional measure. The responsibility of running the administration of the country was vested in me in 1982. On that day I pledged before you that by reviving the Constitution within 2 years, power would be transferred to the elected government. I assured you that by means of better policies I would rehabilitate our chaotic economy toward the path of production. We realized that only by means of a democratic system could a production-oriented economy be accelerated in a country like ours.

We have learned from experience that political stability is essential for stabilizing the democratic system and for maintaining uninterrupted growth in the economy.

Since the very day I assumed responsibility as president, I have said that in order to ensure stability it is essential to have national unanimity on basic political and national issues. We have marched ahead with the firm objective of fulfilling these pledges and achieving these goals. I called elections after just 2 years, but they could not be held. You know why the democratic transformation was delayed for 2 years despite our sincere desire and efforts. You also know who was responsible, but I do not want to go into that issue today.

With the great blessings of God and your cooperation, we were able to establish a democratic system last year with the successful completion of the election of parliament and the president. At the first session of parliament I proudly declared that from that day forward, parliament would be the living force for all political and national affairs.

Dear countrymen, I have repeatedly stated our unwavering faith in a multi-party democratic society. The existence of a strong opposition party is essential for strengthening the inner force of a democratic society. I have stated several times that an exchange of views between the ruling and opposition parties and maintaining respect for each other despite ideological differences is a (?deep-rooted) force. This has been reflected in our actions. During the period from 1983 to the 1986 elections, we held talks with the opposition parties on all stages of the democratic transformation and, in light of such discussions, we repeatedly reconsidered our decisions.

In the parliamentary elections last year, nominated candidates of my party—the Jatiya Party—won 153 of the 300 seats. The remaining 147 seats were captured by those who did not belong to the Jatiya Party. I welcomed the outcome of the election as a victory for democracy. It was the first time in our history that a ruling party had won so few seats and the opposition so many. It also marked the first time in our history that, in accepting the reasonable arguments of the opposition parties in the first session of the parliament, a government had amended the budget proposals. It also marked the first time that a head of state had returned a bill approved by majority vote in parliament for reconsideration. I and my government have consciously tried to make the democratic system effective not through the strength of a great majority, but on the basis of collective wisdom. I have witnessed during my visits to all parts of the country that the people have welcomed our efforts and have supported them.

Economic progress on the democratic path and the people's active participation in the development trend are our accepted basic policy. I have termed this new trend of nation building and enthusiasm as the politics of production. If we review the initiatives and activities of the past 6 years, we can say that we have achieved success. We have been able to maintain a rate of progress at a particular level. We have created confidence in the investment field. We have kept the nation free from famine in the face of devastating natural calamities.

Dear countrymen, we hoped that by drawing inspiration from the spirit of the great liberation war and backed by the light of our experience of the follies and misfortunes of the past, we would be able to take the nation and people unitedly toward the path of happiness, welfare, and peace. We believed that not the narrowmindedness of the party but the liberal outlook of national interest would be the basic factor of our thoughts and activities.

We believed that development through democratic and constitutional systems and firm economic foundations—the preconditions of independent existence—would be realized in all fields. However, I must state with great sorrow and regret today that what has happened recently in the country in the name of politics, democracy, and the Constitution is not in line with our national objectives, democratic values, and aspirations of the people.

Some of the political parties are asking for constitutional changes. I have stated from the first day of taking over the responsibility of running the administration that we have no authority to amend the Constitution and we will not amend the Constitution. The Constitution can be amended only through the consent of the people, as described in the Constitution. There is always scope to improve the Constitution. In all countries Constitutions are expanded according to the needs of society or pressures of the time. In our country also, the Constitution has reached its present form after going through many ups and downs. Neither I nor my government brought any changes to it. If some person or party, gaining a clear mandate for changing the Constitution, amends it, then no person or party who has faith in democratic values will oppose it. However, by disregarding parliament and the people's mandate, any attempt to amend the Constitution on the streets cannot be [words indistinct]. Will the persons who have taken the pledge to safeguard the Constitution bow down before unconstitutional pressure? I put this question to your conscience.

You know how the Constitution got its present form and structure. Those who are today trying to bring back the parliamentary system by amending the Constitution themselves introduced the constitutional framework of the presidential system in the declaration of independence of 1971. They changed that system in 1972 and brought in a constitution embodying the parliamentary system. They again amended the Constitution in 1975 and established a one-party presidential form of government. In other words, in the 4 years from 1971 to 1975, they introduced changes three times to the constitutional system. After the amendment of 1975, the one-party system was brought to an end, but the form of government remained unchanged. Since then, the Constitution has remained in force from 1977.

I do not want to go into the question of whether or not it is right or whether or not there is a need to amend the Constitution. I stand for (?principles). The Constitution can be amended only through constitutional means, and for that we need the people's mandate. As an elected president, the people of the country did not give me the mandate to amend the Constitution. My mandate is to protect the Constitution.

Dear countrymen, questions have been raised about changing the government and my resignation. I want to know and understand why I should have to resign. The people have elected me for a term of 5 years under the Constitution. If I have done anything unconstitutional, there is provision and scope in the Constitution to impeach the president. The parliament held three sittings during the last 15 months, but no move has been initiated against me for impeachment.

During my government in the past 6 years, our economy has been turned toward production, not indiscipline. There were natural calamities in the past 6 years, but not a single person died of starvation. There were no secret political killings during this period, and I have preserved fundamental and democratic rights. The prestige of Bangladesh has been enhanced in the community of nations. The democratic systems were established through elections. Therefore, why should I have to resign?

Those who are talking about change in the government also say that they believe in democratic and constitutional systems. Dear countrymen, it goes without saying that change in the government in a democratic system should be made according to guidelines laid down by the Constitution; that is, through elections and the people's verdict. The opposition parties took to the streets with the slogans of changing the government and amending the Constitution. As a person who believes in democratic values and as your elected president, I called upon them and said that if the objective of your activities is to get the final verdict of the people, then come and let us go to the people through negotiation. If we unitedly agree, then my government has no objection to arrange for a new election before the term is over. If the people declare their desire to amend the Constitution, then come to the parliament and amend it. If the people want to bring change the government, I will gladly not hesitate for a moment to hand over power to the victorious party in the election. No response has been received to my appeal on the question of the least-needed thing for democracy. What we see now are the events of the past few days. It should be decided by you whether that can be called democratic movement. My conscience says that whatever is happening could be anything but favorable to [words indistinct] framework of democracy and social stability. These are not in line with the development and politics of production. They are also not related to the constitutional trends.

The planned anarchy of the last few days is pushing us toward dreadful consequences in social, economic, and in all other fields of national life. We are now just becoming aware of its gravity. We are losing about 150 crore taka every day. Our development projects are being disturbed with obstacles to our exports and imports. In other words, economic activities are threatened and anarchy is gradually expanding. Evil forces are making malicious attempts to [words indistinct] our nation and people and our present and future. Malicious attempts are being made to place constitutional trends before unconstitutional blind force. Masses of people, who hold the sovereign power, are becoming helpless and inactive in the face of the fear created and planned by a handful of people. Attempts are also being made to make bomb-throwing, and not the consent of the people, the means to change the government. Anarchy is being glorified.

Dear countrymen, are the people wholeheartedly supporting the things that have been happening in the past few day in the name of a movement? If these events have the support of the people, then why are there bombings during strikes, burning of buses, harassing of office workers and government employees on streets, and the removal of railway tracks? Do the people know how to make a bomb? Do the people have the training to dismantle fish plates from the railway tracks? You know who these people are. Is it a democratic movement when a bomb is put in the hands of an innocent 9- or 10-year old boy? What kind of democracy is it to remove railway tracks and put the lives of thousands of railway passengers in danger? There can be no greater objective than endangering the lives of the people. Indiscipline cannot help society. If this situation is allowed to continue, then our great hopes will be soon be (?ruined). Our economy will completely collapse; mills and factories will be closed; the dream of building a self-reliant and independent economy will disappear forever; the democratic national system will be a victim of (?disorder); extreme uncertainty will devour independence; and sovereignty will be trampled. Therefore, this cannot be allowed to continue. No government cannot remain a silent spectator in such a situation.

We hoped in the past few days that by demonstrating patience and a lenient attitude all groups would return to the path of reason and place patriotism over party objectives. Today, I must regretfully state that our hopes were in vain. Therefore, despite my unwillingness, I must declare a state of emergency invoking section 141-A of the Constitution for maintaining our democratic system, the national economy, social peace, and political stability.

We always believed that political problems could be solved only through political means, and that in a democratic system this could be achieved only through negotiations. I have always tried to follow the path of negotiation and understanding. The path of negotiation still remains open. I sincerely declare that we are prepared to hold reasonable talks—individually or jointly with the opposition parties—on all issues with the objective of a satisfactory solution. These negotiation are in the national interest. I call upon all concerned persons to come and start a meaningful dialogue. If an agreement is reached through dialogue for the holding new elections, arrangements can be made to hold an election on a date acceptable to all parties prior to the end of this term. I promise a fair election and its implementation as acceptable to all parties on behalf of the government. If any party in the election wants to amend the Constitution by getting the majority mandate and passing it through the parliament, there will be no objection from my side.

Blind hatred, unreasonable impulse, and unrealistic views have not helped us in the past to set up a strong social and national framework; these attitudes have held us back. We have wasted a lot of time. Useless arguments and unwanted conflict cannot benefit our future. Therefore, come, let us use our intelligence and wisdom to fulfill the hopes of the nation, to set up a welfare state for the people, and to assure a prosperous future for our descendants. Through this united effort, let us repay our debts to the great martyrs of the liberation war.

Dear countrymen, we are now passing through a bad time. This situation requires both patience and steadfastness . I have said that I will accept the verdict of the people with humility. However, I will not surrender to anarchy. I am prepared to accept any honest suggestion to strengthen the democratic system and political stability, but I will not surrender to unconstitutional and unjust pressure. I have taken an oath in the name of the Constitution and the great merciful God, and I will remain faithful to it. If the need arises, I will not hesitate to sacrifice the last drop of my blood for the protection of the independence of the country and democracy. The government's strength lies with you, the people, and I wish to have your full support. Goodbye. Long live Bangladesh.

Ershad, Military Review Situation

BK281647 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The chiefs of the three services, Lieutenent General M. Atiqur Rahman, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, and Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmad, called on President Ershad at the Supreme Command Headquarters in Dhaka today. The president, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, discussed with them the overall situation in the country.

Ershad Tours Dhaka; Curfew Extended

BK291601 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Excerpts] President Ershad visited some areas of the Dhaka city during the 8-hour curfew break today. He saw normal activities going on in public life. The president drove himself to Tezgaon industrial area, North Bazaar, Bangla Motor, Airport Road, and Zia International Airport. He found the people belonging to all walks of life performing their normal activities. [passage omitted]

An official announcement this evening says curfew shall remain in force in Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, and Rajshahi cities, and in Narayanganj town till 0800 instead of 0600 in the morning tomorrow. However, there will be no curfew from 0800 in the morning to 1730 in the afternoon tomorrow. The curfew will be reimposed tomorrow from 1730 in the afternoon. All government offices shall remain open from 0900 in the morning till 1400 in the afternoon.

Earlier, another official announcement said all mills and factories outside the curfew areas will function normally. The ports and railway services will remain exempt from purview of the curfew.

Ershad Holds Cabinet Meeting

BK301336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, today called a special cabinet meeting to discuss the latest political situation in the country. This was the first meeting since he proclaimed a state of emergency last week in the wake of widespread opposition protests demanding his resignation. The cabinet meeting at the presidential palace in Dhaka began shortly before noon during a 9 and 1/2 hour curfew relaxation. No details were available.

Reports from Dhaka quoting police sources say the city was largely peaceful during the curfew relaxation period. Police and paramilitary forces were guarding key points in the city. Residents in the central new market of the capital said they heard some explosions this morning but the details were not available. Police have rounded up a number of persons and recovered lethal weapons, including several homemade bombs. [Hong Kong AFP in English at 1224 GMT on 30 November in a similar report adds: "A loud explosion followed by a second blast rocked Dhaka's business district Monday as ministers left the nearby presidential palace after a special cabinet meeting, diplomatic sources here said. The sources said witnesses heading towards the palace called Bangabhaban after the first blast heard a second smaller explosion then echo through the district of high rise office blocks."]

3 Opposition Leaders Released

BK301410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 30 (AFP)—Police arrested 12 lawyers here Monday for taking part in a demonstration and released three top opposition leaders, Interior Minister Abdul Matin announced.

Mr. Matin told journalists that the 12 had been arrested for taking part in a demonstration near a Dhaka court in violation of regulations under the state of emergency announced Friday.

Political gatherings and strikes have been banned under the state of emergency announced by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Mr. Matin said the three opposition leaders had been freed from Dhaka's central jail Monday.

They were Mirza Gulam Hafiz, acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Abdul Mannan, a senior Awami League leader and former home minister, and Saidur Rahman Sayeed, secretary of the Dhaka BNP.

Mr. Hafiz, a former speaker of parliament, was arrested at his home Friday, just hours before the proclamation of the state of emergency and the imposition of a 32-hour curfew in Dhaka and four other cities.

Mr. Hafiz became acting chief of the BNP after BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed were put under house arrest on November 11.

Mr. Sayeed was arrested at a city hotel on November 11 along with Begum Zia.

India

Pant Asks LTTE To Accept Sri Lanka Accord

BK281600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Mr K.C. Pant, has expressed the hope that the LTTE will surrender arms, commit itself to peaceful methods, and cooperate in the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement. Addressing a meeting of the All India Newspaper Editors Conference in New Delhi, he said India has no desire to hurt the LTTE or the Tamil people in the island whose interests are dear to our heart. But whoever thwarted India in its efforts to get the agreement implemented had to be dealt with. The latest package of concessions to the militants to surrender their arms is another step in the direction to bring peace in Sri Lanka. Mr Pant hoped that the concessions would lead to a debate within the LTTE ranks resulting in the surrender of arms by them.

Agreement Needed

BK291614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has reiterated that the India-Sri Lankan agreement will be implemented at all costs. He said this is keeping in view the security of the South Asian region. The agreement became necessary as certain powers were involved in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. The agreement has helped prevent the further movement of these powers.

Referring to the PKF [peacekeeping force] role, he said India wants to safeguard the interests of the Tamils in the island. Mr Pant was speaking to newsmen in Lucknow.

Earlier, addressing officers and jawans [soldiers] of the Central Command, he said sophisticated arms are now being produced in the country and modernization of the Army has been undertaken to counter induction of weapons in our neighborhood by foreign powers.

In the evening, he addressed a meeting organized in connection with the 100th birth anniversary of [freedom fighter] Pandit Gobind Vallabh Pant.

Union Minister Denies Allegations on Accord

BK300407 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, has denied the allegations that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had signed the India-Sri Lanka agreement against the interest of Tamils.

Addressing a meeting at Trichirappalli in Tamil Nadu last night, the minister also denied the allegation that representatives of Tamil groups were not consulted before signing the agreement. He said the prime minister consulted the leaders of Tamil militant groups including the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, before signing the agreement. Mr Chidambaram expressed concern over the false propaganda being carried out by some political leaders and a section of the press against the peacekeeping force.

Gandhi Comments on Tripura Extremists Problem

BK280754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived at Agartala this morning on a day's visit to Tripura. He was received at the airport by the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao; the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakroberty; and senior officials. Immediately after his arrival, the prime minister had an hour-long discussion with the chief minister on various issues concerning the state. He also held discussions with the state Congress-I leaders.

Addressing newsmen before his departure for Belonia in South Tripura district, Mr Gandhi said the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists problem requires a multifaceted approach. He said the state government has not given enough attention to the insurgency problem.

About the repatriation of Chakma refugees [tribals from around Chittagong] to Bangladesh, the prime minister said the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government on a number of occasions including the recent meeting with President Ershad in Kathmandu.

During his stay in Tripura, the prime minister will address three public meetings at Belonia, Kuwai, and Dharamnagar.

Reiterates Stand on Nuclear Arms

BK281559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister has reiterated that India would not make nuclear weapons and hoped that Pakistan would also refrain from doing so. He said if we make a bomb it would be a retrograde step.

On his arrival in Agartala on a day's visit to Tripura, the prime minister told newsmen that insurgency in the northeast requires a multifaceted approach. [passage omitted].

USSR To Buy Thermal Plant Tools, Electronics

BK281605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The Soviet Union is to import thermal plant tools, electronic goods, and spare parts worth 30 crore rupees from India. Trade contracts for this have been signed between firms of the two countries at the India International Trade Fair in New Delhi. Indian firms in turn have finalized business deals worth about 15 crore rupees. These include import of assembly instruments, machine tools, and textile machinery.

Contract To Buy UK Sea Eagle Missiles Signed

BK260910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr Shivraj Patil, told the Rajya Sabha today that a contract has been signed with Britain for the purchase of Sea Eagle missiles.

In reply to a question, Mr Patil said indigenous development work on certain types of missiles required by the armed services is in hand. This includes limited production of the missiles.

AFP: Opposition Parties Forge New Alliance

BK290947 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP)—Dissidents expelled from India's ruling Congress (I) Party have joined forces with three opposition groups to forge an alternative to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

Former Defence Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Jan Morcha (People's Front), the centrist Janata (People's) Party, the rural-based Lok Dal (Masses Party) and the Congress (Socialist) charged Mr Gandhi with heading an "incompetent, ineffective and corrupt regime."

They said in a press release here Saturday: "We not only have to change the government and recast the policies, but we have to change the system," adding: "It is a historical necessity."

Mr Pratap Singh, who was expelled from the Congress (I) in July, has emerged as Mr Gandhi's leading critic. His Jan Morcha, a non-political forum, is made up mainly of expelled Congress (I) members, including Mr Gandhi's cousin Arun Nehru.

The four groups announced a 14-point charter highlighting the need to eliminate corruption and institute a machinery to check corruption in "high places."

They said their alliance would act as a vehicle for the people to "articulate their aspirations and to launch a struggle against the anti-people policies of the ruling party."

The four parties have in the past called for Mr Gandhi's resignation on corruption charges surrounding a 1.3-billion-dollar military contract with the Swedish arms firm Bofors.

Allegations that senior Congress (I) politicians and Defence Department figures had taken bribes to help Bofors clinch the contract sparked a crisis in the party and government earlier this year which has recently ebbed.

Iran

Reportage on Return of Gorji, French Envoy

Gorji Leaves Paris

LD292112 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—At 19:15 hours local time (15:45 GMT) Sunday, the main gate of the French Embassy in Tehran was quietly opened and a relatively tall man came out of the building. Iranian officials identified the man as Jean Paul Torri, the French consul here who has been under prosecution by Iran's judicial officials for the past few months.

The Iranian officials said Torri left the French Embassy to attend an interrogation. 15 Minutes after Torri left the French Embassy in Tehran, Vahid Gorji, a translator at Iran's Paris Embassy who was under control by the French police since June 30 this year, left the embassy.

Gorji left the embassy after he made sure Torri had attended Islamic Revolution's Court in Tehran for questioning, which took place at 20:30 local time (17:00 GMT).

A similar court session was held in Paris for Gorji who rejected the allegations brought against him by the French Government.

While Iran's judicial officials have still not published any report on the conclusion of the court session which Torri attended, it was announced in Paris that the French court interrogator had nothing to prove the allegations brought against Gorji and that he has been released.

According to latest reports reaching here from Paris, Gorji has left the Paris airport for Tehran.

Islamic Tribunal Questions Torri

LD291855 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—French Consul in Tehran Jean Paul Torri attended the Islamic Revolution tribunal based at Evin Prison at 20:30 hours local time (17:00 GMT) and was interrogated about the certain charges against him.

The French Consul had long been wanted by the Islamic revolution tribunal for some explanations, but had so far continued to refuse to appear.

Interrogation of Consul Continues

LD292138 Tehran IRNA in English 2133 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Interrogation from French Consul to Tehran Jean Paul Torri seems to be still continuing after the passage of 3 1/2 hours, as officials at Tehran Islamic Revolution's Court have not yet announced the result of the questioning.

Torri attended the court at 17:00 hours GMT Sunday and until 20:30 hours GMT it was still unknown whether the proceeding had ended and if Torri had been released.

Vahid Gorji, an Iranian translator at Tehran's Paris Embassy was questioned by French officials earlier Sunday and released after he rejected the charges brought against him by the French Government. He left Paris for Tehran Sunday evening.

French Consul Departs for Home

LD300526 Tehran IRNA in English 0522 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—French Diplomat Jean-Paul Torri left Tehran for Paris Monday morning at the end of interrogations at Tehran's Islamic Revolution Court. The French diplomat, first secretary of the French Embassy since July 1985 in Tehran, was summoned by the Iranian court about four months ago.

Speaking before departure Torri said that he was glad that Vahid Gorji an Iranian translator at the Iranian Embassy in Paris was released. Torri declined to comment on accusations against him.

The wife and the only child of the French diplomat left Tehran some two months ago.

Torri was charged with subversive activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

French Embassy Under Heavy Guard

LD300639 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 30 Nov 87

["French Embassy in Tehran Under Heavy Police Protection"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—The French Embassy in Tehran remains under police protection, despite the simultaneous release by the Iranian Government of French diplomat Jean-Paul Torri and the French release of Iranian Embassy translator Vahid Gorji in Paris Sunday night.

French Embassy compounds in Tehran are now under close surveillance of police and security guards.

The French Embassy official was detained and interrogated in Tehran on charges of subversive activities.

French Embassy Staffer Comments

LD301118 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—A seal and cordon around the French Embassy in Tehran still continues and entrance is banned for all. Embassy staffers, however, are free to leave the building.

Islamic revolution committeemen vacated the embassy premises Sunday and entrusted its protection to city police.

A French Embassy staffer who declined to identify himself told IRNA that nine French Embassy employees were confined at the embassy building for six months. He said that three weeks ago they were allowed to go out shopping one at a time escorted by a security guard.

He seemed pleased with the latest agreements between Tehran and Paris and delighted that he can now return home.

Khamene'i To Observe Shiraz Maneuvers

LD280730 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Nov. 28, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council Hojat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that the mass mobilization in Iran has pleased friends of the Islamic revolution and disappointed its enemies.

Speaking upon his arrival here to observe the maneuvers of 500,000 combatants of Mohammad (SAW) Corps, Khamene'i stressed that the mobilization would bring in great results.

The president noted that recent maneuvers have created unprecedented enthusiasm among people from all walks of life and in every corner of the country.

President Khamene'i accompanied by commanders of the Ground Forces of the Army and the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps], and also a number of Majlis (Parliament) representatives, arrived here Saturday morning.

About 720 battalions of organized volunteer combatants as well as seven divisions of female troops and 12 divisions of tribesmen will take part in the maneuvers.

Addresses Army Personnel

LD281028 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Shiraz, Fars, Prov., Nov. 28, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is now frightened to death by the Muslim forces. Through the recent mass mobilization and repeated blows of Muslim combatants of Iran the war will be finished off soon in the benefit of the oppressed in general and the Iranian nation in particular, he added.

The president who was speaking in a military base here told the personnel of the army that popular support for the armed forces is a great blessing. This support, he added, has now reached its peak.

He said that the Iranian nation upholds the banner of justice and struggle against big powers and is committed to ending domination of these powers. Therefore, he added, oppressed nations have placed their hope on the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is only natural that the oppressors are hostile towards Iran, the president said, adding that before the eyes of the oppressed this hostility is a source of pride for Iran.

Khamene'i said that the ruling world powers think in vain that the Iranian nation will be worn out. However, he stressed, they are totally wrong.

The Iranian Armed Forces, said the head of the Supreme Defence Council, are proud of serving the objectives of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Iranian nation. He said the Iranian Army has gained a great deal of valuable experience.

In conclusion the president stressed the importance of unity in the armed forces.

Vows First Strike on U.S. Forces

LD281544 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Nov. 28, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i warned the U.S. today, that if it continues its provocative presence in the Persian Gulf the Islamic Republic will certainly strike at it, without waiting for Washington to engage Iran.

Addressing a huge gathering of half a million-strong volunteer forces from throughout this southern province, the head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) added that freedom fighters are busy clashing with arrogant, oppressive forces throughout the world.

President Khamene'i described arrogant powers as 'enemies of mankind', who are exploiting other human beings for their own vicious interests and desires.

Elsewhere in his speech, Khamene'i lauded the Iranian people for their determining role in the Iraqi-imposed war. "Your firm resistance against hardships has set an example for the whole world," he added.

The whole world is now speaking of Iran's valiant struggle against the U.S. as is evident in the news aired by the American mass media itself, said Khamene'i, noting that the world is well aware that Iran holds the upper hand in its confrontation with the U.S., the so-called strongest power in the world.

However, said the president, Iran is keeping a careful eye on the current developments and is determined to counter the U.S. policy which he described as "dangerous".

The SDC head continued that the U.S. has not dispatched its naval warships to escort ships as it pretends, but is rather scheming to get a foothold in the region, in order to strike at the Islamic republic at some opportune time.

U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf is also aimed at encouraging pro-U.S. regimes in the region and to moniter closely the developments in Iraq, stressed the president.

Khamene'i warned "I declare that in order to confront the U.S. we will not wait for it to strike at us first. If we feel that the U.S. is bent upon continuing its provocative and mischievous acts or may try to endanger our interests in the Persian Gulf we will certainly strike," he added.

The president, pointing that the number of trained volunteers in Iran is now more than ever before, said that these forces will be gradually despatched to the battlefields to inflict relentless strikes at enemy troops, any more so that the enemy could not stand again on its own feet. [sentence as received]

States Victory 'Imminent'

LD291657 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Yazd, Nov. 29, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i today vowed that Iraqi Ba'thist rulers will soon receive crushing blows from Iran. These blows will accelerate the downfall of the Baghdad regime, he added.

The president, addressing personnel of the Mohammad (SAW) Corps of this central province, grouped in 300 battalions, described the imminent Iranian victory at this stage of the Iraqi-imposed war, as a 'triumph' for the Islamic republic and an 'eventual set-back' for global arrogance and other oppressive powers.

"We have changed our war tactics in the Iraqi-imposed war", said Khamene'i. "By dealing relentless blows on the enemy, we must force Ba'thist troops to fold up so the Iraqi regime cannot reinforce its badly-beaten forces", he added.

The SDC head stressed that the military build-up of the U.S. and the West in the Persian Gulf is vainly aimed at preventing the overthrow of the tottering regime of Iraq. The West is well aware that once the Islamic republic gains victory over Iraq, it will find such a great influence in the world that global arrogance will it impossible to face Iran, noted the president.

Elsewhere in his speech, the SDC head reminded that in terms of manpower and military equipment, Iran is more powerful and more prepared today than ever before, noting "we are manufacturing a large amount of our needed weapons and ammunition inside the country."

Khomeyni Receives Musavi, Other Officials

LD281353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Excerpt] This morning in the Jamaran Mosque Imam Khomeyni met with the foreign guests participating in the international congress on the sanctity and security of the holy sanctuary and with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, accompanied by members of the Prime Ministry and government offices' mobilization unit and a group of mobilization commanders from all over the country. He also met with Messrs Karrubi, representative of the imam and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims; Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic Guidance; Jamarani, representative of the imam and supervisor of the Hajj and religious endowments and charities organization; Rahmani, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed; and Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, accompanied by a number of Navy personnel.

In this meeting, first the music group of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy sang a song for the anniversary of the Navy. Then, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made some remarks on the anniversary of the formation of the Mobilization of the Oppressed, Navy Day, and the conclusion of the international congress on the sanctity and security of the holy sanctuaries. At the end of this meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the display of emotion by those present. [passage omitted]

Musavi's Remarks at Meeting

LD281453 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] This morning in the Jamaran Mosque Imam Khomeyni met the foreign guests participating in the international congress on the sanctity and security of the sanctuary; Prime Minister Musavi, accompanied by members of the mobilization of the Prime Ministry and other departments and a number of mobilization commanders from all over the country; Karrubi, representative of the imam and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims; Khatami, minister of Islamic guidance; Jamarani, the imam's representative and supervisor of religious endowments and charities; Rahmani, the responsible officer for Mobilization of the Oppressed; and Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, together with a number of Navy personnel.

At this meeting, on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the Mobilization of the Oppressed, Navy Day, and the conclusion of the world congress on assessing the sanctity and security of the sanctuary, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Today I have the honor of greeting the great leader of the revolution, the leader of the oppressed, and the founder of the Islamic Republic, on behalf of the mobilization forces and responsible authorities of the mobilization offices and also on behalf of the honorable personnel of the Navy and the dear guests who came to Tehran to attend the world conference on the sanctity and security of the sanctuary.

It is also appropriate on this great occasion for me to make a brief reference to the role of the mobilization and also to other dear brothers and guests who are present here.

The Mobilization of the Oppressed is today a familiar term in world political and military jargon. Most certainly, its familiarity, the importance it carries, stems from the fact that these dear ones have shown resistance and faith. These are factors that consolidate the values of the Islamic Republic in this area. Today our mobilization forces, representing all the great ummah of Islam, serve as the powerful arm of the Islamic Revolution in our country and in the world. They provide examples for the future of the whole Islamic nation. If they intend to live in honor and stand on their feet, if they intend to recapture their lost honor, they must emulate these examples.

Today there is no force in this region capable of having an impact other than our mobilization force. This force belongs to a nation that is faithful to Islam and has traveled the road of Islam. The mobilization is a reserve force for all the great ummah of Islam. Because of its ties with Islam and with our people, the power of this force is expanding. In recent days we have witnessed extraordinary scenes. Of course, as far as we are concerned, this is not extraordinary; however, it is in the eyes of the world's people. This is because our nation has returned to Islam. In terms of joining the mobilization and of displaying the power of the mobilization throughout the country, we have seen that this is our best response to all the plots that are taking shape in the world against the Islamic Revolution. This is our most powerful weapon against global arrogance.

The brothers who are present here are responsible authorities of the mobilization throughout the country and of mobilization branches in the state offices.

Your Eminence has repeatedly called them the toiling and oppressed forces. I confirm that, under the present conditions and the hardships experienced by the government, these dear ones are the executive elements of the regime. They provide the manpower for the war and they have made the country continue its resistance against the frightening waves of plots by the arrogance. However, these dear ones demand the least. While they guard their trenches in the factories and various other places, they also man the trenches of the fight of light against darkness. Last year, we had 200,000 volunteers from the government offices dispatched to the battlefields. This year, because of this vast movement, the figure will certainly be much higher, God willing.

Meanwhile, today is the Navy Day—the forces that guard the southern frontiers, the honor of the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic ummah. They are the ones who, alongside the mobilization forces sailing the boat of faith, have been able to drown the vessel of U.S. honor in the Persian Gulf. They earned honor for the Islamic Republic, as well as for the Islamic Revolution, all over the world. Naturally, the prayers of our leader, our people, and our Muslim nation will follow these dear ones.

Also present here are honorable guests from Africa, Asia, Europe, and all over the world. They are fully aware of the legitimacy of the Islamic Revolution and the fact that it has been victimized. They are the defenders of the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution throughout the world. They have gathered here to reveal the crimes of the house of Al Sa''ud in the sacred land of Hijaz. They showed how this crime was perpetrated with the backing of the U.S. forces present in the region. This congress has in fact opened a window for the future administration of the two sanctuaries by the effort of all Muslims in the world—especially the dear clergy of the Islamic ummah, the clergy bound by the Koran and Islam, defending Islam and the high Islamic values. God willing, this will become reality in the future. The presence of these dear ones here at a time when the Saudi Government and stooges of the United States were trying to use the preachers of the kings and court clerics in the service of the United States to endorse the crimes of the house of Al Sa'ud and the treacherous decisions of the conference of the Arab heads is very valuable to us. The resolution passed by them is very important. It continues your disavowal message which serves as a charter and guidance for the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic ummah toward a fate for which we must fight. May God bless the great Islamic ummah with that sun which all of us await.

We pray that God may keep alive all the aspirations of Islam among all our Islamic ummah. May God lengthen the life of the leader of the revolution so that he may continue to show us the true path and give us guidance. [end recording]

Larijani Named New UN Representative

LD291129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Following a request by the UN secretary general to the Islamic Republic of Iran to send a representative to New York, Mr Mohammad Javad Larijani, economic and international affairs under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, will leave for New York tomorrow as Iran's representative. He will declare Iran's stand with regard to ways of implementing justice regarding the aggressor. He will also describe Iran's fundamental stands on Security Council Resolution 598.

FRG Official Arrives To Discuss Genscher Visit

LD281151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] The special envoy of Hans Dietrich Genscher, FRG minister of foreign affairs, last night arrived in Tehran for 3-day visit. He carried a message from Mr Genscher for the minister of foreign affairs of our country.

He will meet with the authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will discusses with them on the visit of Mr Genscher to the region, the current situation of the Persian Gulf, and bilateral relations.

Congress on Holy Shrines Continues

Montazeri Address

LD271348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] The remarks of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in his meeting with the foreign guests who had taken part in the congress on the sanctity and security of the holy mosques is the topic of our first news report:

In this meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, in welcoming the ulema, scholars, and writers who have come to Iran, said: The crime Al Sa'ud committed in holy Mecca was of great enormity. This calamity for the world of Islam will not be forgotten. Because the sanctity and immunity of the house of God was violated, the Muslims of the world should have taken action. Remember that following the attack of the forces of Mua'wiyyah [Imam 'Ali's rival to the caliphate] who plundered the jewels of the Muslim women and the people of the Book, his holiness the commander of the faithful [Imam 'Ali] said: If someone dies of grief as the result of this calamity, he is not to be blamed.

The Westerners and the colonialists plundered everything we possessed. Unfortunately, they also deprived us of Islamic honor and zeal. The sanctity and nonviolability of the house of God is not something that may be questioned. It is one of the Islamic injunctions, so there is no need to deliver speeches about it. This was an enormous calamity, and merely sitting and condemning such a crime will not solve anything.

The Muslims should clearly recognize the main danger to Islam and the Islamic lands, which is the United States and international Zionism and their lackey agents in Islamic countries; and they should seriously think of a solution.

Referring to the danger and harm done by corrupt rulers and evil court mullahs, he recited a tradition from the prophet of Islam who said: There are two groups among my ummah that should they be pious, my ummah will become pious, and if they should be corrupt, my ummah will become corrupt. One group is the rulers and political figures, and the second group is made up of the ulema and jurisprudents who justify their tyrannies and crimes.

He emphasized: Today the world of Islam is afflicted by these two calamities. On the one hand, the dependent leaders of the Islamic countries such as Fahd, King Hassan, King Husayn, Saddam and the rest, in order to legitimize and expand the Camp David Accords, hold a conference next door to beloved Jerusalem, strengthen Israel, and squander the facilities of Islamic countries while safeguarding the interests of the United States and the West in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, court akhunds [pejorative term for mullahs] justify and support the tyrannical acts and crimes of U.S.-affiliated leaders. Were it not for the collaboration of those treacherous leaders, the United States and the West could not do a damned thing.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: As long as this is the situation in the Islamic countries, Islam and the Muslims will remain in this tragic state. One cannot fight against the United States and Zionism merely by holding meetings and chanting slogans. The ulema of Islam and all the Muslims should make some serious decisions.

See how the corrupt Iraqi regime falsely chanted slogans against the United States and Israel for a number of years. However, in the end, it was discovered that it was their agent and servant.

He added: Why do Muslim ulema, scholars, and writers in Islamic countries keep quiet and not utter a word, or write anything, or show any reaction or any uprising against the crimes and tyrannical deeds of corrupt and lackey leaders?

The deputy leader then quoted a large number of traditions from the Prophet of Islam from both Shi'a and Sunni books about the need to defend the oppressed and to rise against tyranny and tyrants. He spoke in detail about a famous tradition from Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, where he said: Whoever keeps quiet in the face of a tyrannical ruler who oppresses the people and violates God's laws and injunctions and does not react, God will associate such indifferent individuals with those tyrannical rulers.

In the same connection, he referred to the need to establish Islamic governments and traditions and behavior as did the the noble prophet, God's benediction and blessings be upon him and his kin, and said that his holiness did not remain quiet in the face of oppression. He did not sit in a corner and merely pray, although all his prayers would have been answered. On the contrary, he carried out an uprising and had about 80 military clashes. He called on the Muslims to arise, and he established a just government and powerfully implemented God's laws, injunctions, and justice among the people.

He said: There are more than 300 verses in the Koran about jihad, which unfortunately are forgotten, and about 60 books of Islamic jurisprudence are devoted to politcal issues, economics, judicial matters, punishments, and similar subjects. In view of this, it is regrettable that the enemies of Islam and the colonialists succeeded in influencing the thoughts and attitudes of Muslims and of the ulema and Islamic writers and preachers. These enemies took away from them their Islamic character, and said that religion is separate from politics. By so doing, the colonialists succeeded in imposing corrupt leaders over Islamic countries, in placing a few million Zionists in charge of the destiny of the Muslims and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and in putting Al Sa'ud in charge of the two holy mosques. They succeeded in placing holy Mecca—which should be a safe international center for the deprived and oppressed people of the world where everyone can take refuge from the tyranny and oppression of the tyrants—in the hands of a bunch of English agents from Najd [referrence to the Al Sa'ud family], who respect neither the house of God nor the pilgrims who are the guests of God, and who slaughter all of the pilgrims.

He emphasized: Because the United States and Zionism have placed their agents in charge of the destiny of Islam and Muslims with the confirmation and justification of evil court mullahs, the only way for the salvation of Islam and the Muslims is for them to recognize their real enemy and its lackey agents and to strengthen genuine Islamic movements in Islamic countries.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed to the Muslim ulema and scholars who were present at the meeting: Look at the situation of your oppressed Muslim brothers in Iran who, with empty hands but with unity of word and by reliance upon God Almighty and under a decisive leadership, engaged in struggle and confronted the tanks and the artillery of the shah's regime and engaged in self-sacrifice until they became victorious. If Muslim ulema, preachers, and writers also act according to their duty and inform the Muslim people and give them self-confidence and self-reliance, and if they prepare and mobilize all of them, whether Shi'as or Sunnis, they will certainly succeed.

The deputy leader emphasized: In the same way that today the stirrings of the Islamic Revolution can be seen in Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan, and thanks to God, is growing stronger in all other Islamic countries, resistance cells and Islamic movements should receive scientific, spiritual, and material support. This is the duty of all of us and all the ulema of Islam to identify these cells of Islamic movement and revolution and to strengthen them as much as we can. God willing, they will gradually grow and expand so that the nations may be awakened and liberate Jerusalem from the claws of usurping Israel and liberate the two holy mosques from the claws of Al Sa'ud.

He emphasized: If we assist the religion of God, if we rely upon Him, if we all remain united and pay no attentin to racial, linguistic, color, and sectarian differences; if we are not influenced by enemy incitements; and if we make use of all the forces for fighting against the enemies of Islam and the Koran, most definitely the colonial thesis of "divide and rule" will be defeated and the nations will wake up and will be ready for uprising and movement. Very soon through a billion-strong march by all the Muslims of the world, we can liberate beloved Jerusalem, destroy usurping Israel, and place the destiny of Islam and the Muslims in their own hands.

At the end of the meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the awakening and glory of the Muslims, for the strengthening of unity of expression among them, for the victory of all the fighters of Islam everywhere, and for the health and longevity of his holiness the imam.

Resolution Issued on Shrines

LD271411 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The first international congress on the sanctity and security of the sanctuary [Mecca], attended by a large number of ulema, scholars and clergymen from the Islamic world comprising some 43 countries, ended its 5-day debate in Tehran this morning by adopting a 12-point resolution. [passage omitted]

The text of the congress resolution is as follows:

1. The congress regards the Islamic Republic of Iran as the only spiritual and legitimate representative of the Islamic ummah, and Imam Khomeyni as the only leader of the Islamic world who is able to secure the unity of Islamic nations in the Islamic ummah's struggle against blasphemy, polytheism, and infidelity.

2. While appealing on the Islamic world to remove the obstacles to unity and to focus on the divisive role played by U.S.-style Islam, the congress expresses its support for Islamic movements throughout the world and emphatically calls on the pilgrims to the holy house of God to consider and bear in mind their problems next year.

3. The holy house of God is the home of the people, and the hajj ritual is a religious obligation and a divine duty, in that it is not only the right but the clear obligation of Muslim people to shun the infidels—as ordained by God and His messenger—on the day of the major hajj, and to exchange views on all the religious, social, economic, and political fields which serve the interests of the people. No power has the authority to prevent this. At the same time unity marches in holy Medina and the shunning of the infidels' marches in blessed Mecca—which have been

staged in Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution—have been the fulfillment of an obligation. The congress commends [taqdir] any opposition to that.

4. The horrible crime committed on 2 August 1987 at blessed Mecca proved that the two noble sanctuaries can be administered only by competent Islamic ulema. The great Islamic ulema should meet in the near future to discuss details of the matter.

5. In order to register a protest at the horrible crime committed by the house of Al Sa'ud in God's safe sanctury and to pay tribute to the martyrs of bloody Friday at blessed Mecca—who according to published documents were surrounded and martyred with gunfire and poison gas—the congress declares 2 August every year as the day of shunning infidels throughout the Islamic world, to enable Muslims to demonstrate in any way possible their aversion to and their shunning of infidels, in particular at blessed Mecca.

6. In order to promote the objectives of the Islamic world, to thwart the impact of global arrogance's plots, and to avenge the bloody tragedy at blessed Mecca against the criminal United States, it is an unavoidable necessity and a divine obligation to set up Hezbollah cells and to engage in a general mobilization throughout the Islamic world.

7. The Islamic world's principal issue is the issue of Palestine and the struggle against international Zionism. The house of Al Sa'ud's treacherous crime at Mecca must not be the reason for forgetting the Muslims' armed jihad for the liberation of noble Jerusalem. Therefore, any compromise aimed at extending recognition to and stabilizing the regime occupying Jerusalem is condemned. The treacherous position adopted by Arab reaction at the Arab summit in Amman on U.S. orders is strongly denounced.

8. The war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States and with the financial and material support of Arab reaction is denounced, and the congress stresses the sacred defense of Iranian Muslims against the Iraqi Ba'th Party and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

9. The destruction of holy and historical places and the graves of great men from the dawn of Islam and those of the house of the messenger of God—peace be upon him and his scion—in Hijaz is a crime against Islam, against culture, and, in the final analysis, against humanitarian norms and principles.

10. The congress believes that to have an Islamic state named after a corrupt, a corrupting and un-Islamic Saudi family is a grave and unprecedented insult to the two noble sanctuaries.

11. While condemning news imperialism, which did its utmost to deceive public opinion with regard to the tragedy of the massacre of the guests of the house of God and those writers and palace preachers who unwittingly sold out their religion to the oppressors, the congress seeks God's forgiveness for them.

12. The congress stresses the need to set up a permanent secretariat to adopt resolutions and, in particular, to pursue the punishment of offenders through a just Islamic tribunal.

IRNA Details Damage From Recent Earthquakes

LD281742 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 28, IRNA—Friday's earthquake inflicted varying degrees of damage to 243 private houses and public places in 15 villages around here.

A total of 728 houses have been damaged in 30 villages near here as a result of the 10 tremors felt over the past four days. 200 more group tents along with medical team and two ambulances were rushed to the quake-stricken areas today.

Kuwait Withdraws 'Bridgeton' From Gulf

LD281817 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov. 28, IRNA—Kuwait has pulled the U.S. reflagged supertanker "*Bridgeton*" out of the Persian Gulf owing to a lack of confidence in the protection offered by the American fleet.

According to *The Washington Post* Saturday, Kuwaiti officials are fearful that the U.S. Navy cannot adequately protect the largest tanker it placed under the American flag.

It quoted an official saying that it was "not worth the risk" of putting the Bridgeton in the Persian Gulf and would in future stay outside. "Why expose her again?" He questioned.

The Washington Post said that the elaborate operations, involving over 30 warships and 200,000 marines, was "lagging far behind its original goals" and only averaging 4 convoys a month instead of the 10 intended by the Pentagon.

In the meantime, the U.S. has been counting its economic costs, with a congressional agency reckoning additional expenses up to the end of September at dlrs 68 million, excluding maintenance and wear and tear. Running costs had been estimated at dlrs 1.7 million a day.

The agency reported air operations having unusual wearing on its equipment due to "sand in the air" and had cost dls 7.7 million for its aircraft, not allowing for increased maintenance charges.

U.S. Said Escorting 'Disguised' Kuwaiti Ships

LD271735 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov. 27, IRNA—The American fleet has resorted to escorting disguised Kuwaiti tankers as part of its elaborate convoy operations in the Persian Gulf, shipping sources in the region suggest.

The disclosure follows reports that a tanker, which came under fire in the Persian Gulf Thursday, had its name painted over to hide its identity as the *Umm al-Jathatheel* [name as received] belonging to the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company (KOTC).

U.S.S. warship *Gallery* was seen escorting the vessel, falsely bearing the name of a Romanian tanker *Dacia*, at the time of the attack before turning and running away from the incident.

It was the third time this month that the U.S. has failed to respond to raids on shipping sheltering in its convoys.

Reports earlier Thursday spoke of three American warships entering the Persian Gulf escorting a tanker with its name blacked-out, which shipping sources suggest is not connected with the *Umm al-Jathatheel* but another mysterious vessel.

The *Umm al-Jathatheel* was being accompanied by the U.S. [as received] out of the Persian Gulf on its way to Italy, having laden with gas oil in Kuwait.

KOTC in London has confirmed that the *Umm al-Jathatheel* is one of its eight remaining tankers which have not been reflagged. Eleven of its fleet have been reflagged under U.S. colors and three under British colors.

A KOTC spokesman told IRNA Friday that it had no knowledge of the ship trying to hide its identity, but that it would be the responsibility of its head office in Kuwait.

Shipping sources believe the decision to temporarily disguise the vessel as the *Dacia* had been well researched as the real Romanian tanker is currently tied up in a ship-repair yard in the Romanian port of Constanza.

Revelations of the covert operation comes at a time when the U.S. fleet has been showing increasing nervousness and apparently narrowly averted another '*Stark*' disaster. U.S.S. warship *Richmond K. Turner* was reported to have been on "full alert" Thursday when approached by three Iraqi F1 Mirage fighters. The jets refrained from attacking its allies and later veered off.

U.S. Warship Ignores Pleas of Romanian Tanker

LD281820 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov. 28, IRNA—The U.S. Fleet is hated by merchant shipping in the Persian Gulf because of its discriminatory role in protecting tankers, a dispatch from the region has found.

London's Independent Television News Thursday showed footage of an American warship running away after a Romanian tanker was challenged by some speed boats in the area.

The captain of the 86,094-ton *Dacia* was heard early Thursday pleading with the U.S.S. *Gallery* for assistance but instead was seen sailing off leaving the Romanian ship to ask the Soviet Navy for aid.

"*Gallery*, why are you running away, *Gallery*, why are you running away, *Gallery*," one amazed captain was heard radioing the American warship.

The reporter said that the Americans had their own "self-imposed rules of engagement" which disallowed helping others and their refusal had already made the U.S. Fleet to have "lost popularity" in the Persian Gulf.

The latest incident was the third this month when the Americans reportedly stood and watched a tanker hit in the Persian Gulf.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

WIH Denies Residential Bombing

LD221922 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) refuted an Iraqi claim Friday that Iranian combatants had shelled residential areas of northeastern Iraqi town of Qal'at Dizah, in Al-Sulayimaniyah Province Thursday.

The WIH spokesman said that such claims are aimed at paving the way for new mischievous acts by Iraq.

He noted that Iran will give a firm response to any Iraqi act of mischief.

Communique No 3,033

LD271713 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily bombed troops concentration sites of Iraqi forces in Al-'Amarah Friday at 10:28 hours local time (07:58 GMT) inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and returning safely to bases.

The 3033rd Joint Staff communique said that Iranian forces hold the upper hand throughout the battlefields and have pounded enemy positions especially in Nahr 'Anbar, Eynkhosh and Zayd, inflicting heavy casualties on enemy troops and destroying several gun emplacements, watch posts and some vehicles of theirs, said the communique.

Muslim forces of Iran repelled one patrol unit in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, inflicting several casualties on the Iraqi troops, said the communique.

The communique said that Iraqi military activities were checked in Dasht-e-Zohab [name as received], Nahr 'Anbar, Chesan-Badrah axis and areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin.

Iranian artillery fire prevented enemy engineering units from digging canals or setting up embankments west of Jofeyr inflicting losses on them.

Gendarmerie forces opened fire on Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying ten enemy gun emplacements.

The coastal artillery fire of Iranian naval forces heavily pounded Al-Bakr and al-Amayah oil platforms, inflicting damage on the Iraqi troops there.

Communique No 3,034

LD281738 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian forces in Sar Dasht operational region at 14:57 hours local time (11:27 GMT) today. Wreckage of the plane was located in the region but no information is yet available on the fate of the pilot, reported the 3034th communique of the Joint Staff here today.

The communique said Iranian naval forces, maintaining their firm control over the Persian Gulf waters, searched six cargo vessels and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday. All the inspected ships were allowed to continue voyage since no suspicious cargo was found on board.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed over 20 heavy gun emplacements, anti-aircraft positions, watch posts as well as several munitions depots and military vehicles of the Iraqi troops shelling enemy positions in the southern fronts Friday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically throughout the war fronts with Iraqi troops sustaining considerable losses and casualties in each zone. An Iraqi patrol unit in Sar Dasht operational theater was also checked and brought under fire by Muslim combatants who made the enemy flee.

In Panjwin operational region, Iraqi tank fire was silenced by Iranian forces who also halted enemy engineering activities and reconnaissance flights in Naft-e Shah and Mehran regions.

Major casualties were inflicted on Iraqi troops by artillery fire of the muslim forces on enemy positions east of Basra. Iranian combatants also halted activities of Iraqi armoured units in Nahr 'Anbar and west of Jofeyr over where reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were halted, concluded the communique.

Amal Group Damages Arms Complex

LD281802 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Iraqi mujahideen of the Amal Islamic Organization set afire an arms complex affiliated to Iraq's Al-Faris [name as received] factory by exploding a bomb near the complex on 21 November.

The complex, located on the Baghdad-Ramadi highway sustained heavy losses as a result of the blast. Fire fighting units and ambulances rushed en masse to the factory to extinguish the huge flames which blocked the road for hours.

Operations in Iraq Detailed

LD282006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] According to a report from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Hezbollah forces of Iraqi Kurdistan on 24 November subjected three bases of the Zionist Ba'thist regime in the Shirvan region of northern Iraq, to heavy fire, destroying all three bases and killing or wounding all the forces stationed in them. An armored personnel carrier belonging to the Iraqi forces was also set on fire.

The report states that the peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan on 25 November carried out an ambush operation on the Kirkuk-Irbil road and succeeded in destroying a vehicle belonging to the Ba'thist Party of Iraq, killing four of its crew and capturing two others.

Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Kordestan

LD291638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Aircraft of the warmongering and aggressor Iraqi regime violated Kordestan Province's airspace at noon today and bombed two civilian areas in the province. According to reports reaching us, during these attacks three of our compatriots were wounded and the areas suffered some damage.

Communique No 3,035

LD291714 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombarded Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in the Nasr-9 operational theater in Hajj 'Umran region, northeastern Iraq, Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the mission which took place at 11:47 hours local time (08:17 GMT).

Announcing the above, the 3035th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship and an oil tanker, suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq, in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday, but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard.

Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions throughout the fronts, especially in Nahr 'Anbar, Yebis and Zayd, Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several enemy gun emplacements, a missile, two mortar launchers, a vehicle and a munitions dump of theirs.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 15 enemy observation posts and emplacements of light and heavy weapons were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of the border town of Baneh in Kurdistan Province, Friday but were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire before carrying out any bombing missions.

In Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, heavy Iranian artillery fire silenced Iraqi tank fire Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The artillery fire of the Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up barbed wire fences or embankments in Sumar and east of Basra, western and southern sectors, Saturday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq on Soviet Withdrawal From DRA

LD301005 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Nov 87 p 23

[By Gordon Brook-Shepherd]

[Text] In the run-up to the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, where Afghanistan is likely to be the crucial diplomatic issue on the agenda, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has given the *Sunday Telegraph* some outspoken personal views on how the eight-year-long crisis should now be tackled.

I was in Pakistan as President Ziaul Haq's personal guest, and he made his observations during a conversation at the modest "Army house" in Rawalpindi in which he still lives in preference to the presidential palace constructed for him in Islamabad.

The president put forward one essential precondition for a Soviet withdrawal and one suggestion for the political compromise in Kabul which would have to go hand-in-hand with any military pull-out.

His precondition was that a United Nations peacekeeping force would have to be set up in the country. "An international presence is absolutely essential, to ensure that the pull-out is complete and genuine and to help safeguard against any return of Soviet troops," he said. "Without that, the whole operation could be a nonsense. Such a presence would also help to ensure a climate of law and order during what would obviously be a very tense transitional period."

He made the following proposal for the interim government to be installed in Kabul during the period before proper elections could be held: "Why not have one-third representing the Afghan freedom fighters, one-third the Afghan refugee movements and, yes, as we shall have to give something to those on the spot, one-third to the present Communist regime?"

He admitted that getting either of the deeply divided Afghan elements to agree on their own representation would be a problem in itself. He was impatient with the constant harping in the media at the haggling, which has been going on since 1982 in the UN-sponsored so-called "proximity talks", over the actual timetable for a Soviet withdrawal.

The 120,000-strong Soviet invasion force, with its masses of stores and equipment, would obviously take some time to evacuate. The Russians have gradually scaled down their original demand for more than two years, and he felt the final compromise on this might be around 9 to 10 months.

He was convinced that Gorbachev was quite sincere in wanting a political solution, if only because it was now realised that a military solution was well-nigh impossible. But the dilemma facing the Soviet leader was how to withdraw his troops and still save his face as well as his basic strategic interests in the Gulf region.

"They tell us they want assurances that, after their forces leave, Afghanistan will not become a Western bastion. This seems to be Gorbachev's priority. For our part, we certainly agree that Afghanistan should be a non-aligned Islamic democracy.

"But Mr Gorbachev simply cannot have his cake and eat it. At the moment the Russians are still trying to build everything around the existing Communist regime of Najibullah. This won't do, and we have made this clear to them. Nor—and this is much more to the point—will the Afghan people accept living under Communist rule. The Russians will simply have to lump this if they really want to get out."

He felt that the 73-year-old exiled King Mohammad Zahir Shah, now living in Rome, might well have a role to play in presiding over the post-Soviet interim regime. "But it is not up to us, or any other outside power, to suggest that. It can only come from the Afghan people themselves, and we have often asked the Kremlin why they don't consult the Afghan people." The general feeling was that the prospects of Mr Gorbachev agreeing to the sort of settlement he had outlined were not bright.

There had apparently been some indication through third parties that the Russians might swallow the idea of an international presence. But huge domestic and ideological difficulties would confront any Soviet leader who tried to tear up the so-called "Brezhnev Doctrine" and actually dismantle a Communist regime in any country under Soviet control.

"What we are hoping for is the equivalent of a hole in one at golf," he said with a smile.

I understand that the president's ideas, along with other possible solutions, have aleady been under study both at the White House and within the Western alliance. As far as any UN presence is concerned, one view is that a full-scale peacekeeping force in Afghanistan would be exceedingly difficult to mount, if only for logistical reasons. On the other hand, a more manageable team of UN observers drawn partly from Afro-Asian countries could have great value.

What was abundantly clear from our conversation was the tremendous boost given to Pakistan, and the severe blow delivered to the Kremlin, by this month's UN vote on Afghanistan. It was the ninth such General Assembly debate since the 1979 invasion, and at the end a record number of 123 of the 159 member states backed the call for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops with only 11 abstentions, an isolated Communist minority of 19 countries voting against.

"Some six months ago we learned that the Russians had despatched no fewer than 60 special missions to tour Third World countries and persuade them to change their attitude. At one point I reckoned we might be 10 down on last year - that is, 112 supporting our resolution instead of 122.

"In the event we not only stopped any slide but got one vote more: a record 123. This was partly because we also went to work with missions throughout the world. But it was also because all our friends helped us, especially Britain, and I am writing to Mrs Thatcher to thank her for this."

It is also clear that even if Mr Reagan does not formally present President Ziaul Haq's ideas to Mr Gorbachev in a week's time, it would be unthinkable for the White House to reach any accomodation with the Kremlin which Pakistan opposes. Pakistan is the West's front-line state in this Himalayan confrontation, and she has shouldered the burden of 3.5 million Afghan refugees for the best part of a decade.

President Ziaul Haq has repeatedly promised those refugees that he will only allow them to return home when they can do so in honour and in safety. The problem confronting any would-be diplomatic compromiser or fudger is that General Ziaul Haq is a man of his word, with an almost old-fashioned officer's sense of duty and responsibility.

In the meantime, as he soberly admitted, there is not the slightest sign of any Soviet "give" on the ground. The air incursions, border shellings, the attempts to foment trouble among Pakistan's northern tribes and the terrorist activities go on unabated.

During my own trip to these areas, two bombs went off in bus stations, and 200 inhabitants of an Afghan refugee camp at Worsak, near Peshawar, were poisoned after arsenic had been mixed with their food. This campaign is ultimately masterminded by the Kremlin and financed with Russian roubles.

"If anything, things have got worse in this respect since Gorbachev took over," Ziaul Haq said. "The Russians are trying to browbeat us, de-stabilise us by creating rifts in our society."

On the way home, via Moscow, my plane flew for nearly two hours over Afghanistan. It was the first time I had done so in daylight. Even from 35,000 feet up it was evident why the Red Army was finding it impossible to impose its control over this wilderness of craggy mountains and remote valleys.

Junejo To Visit Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait

BK271105 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, is to pay official visits to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait from Tuesday next [1 December]. He will visit Saudi Arabia from the 1st to the 4th, the United Arab Emirates from the 5th to the 7th, and Kuwait from the 7th to the 9th of next month.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says the prime minister's first official visit to these countries will provide him with an opportunity for an indepth exchange of views with the leaders of those countries on current international and regional issues of mutual interest. Development of bilateral relations is expected to be on top of the agenda in the course of his official talks. The prime minister will also meet a large number of Pakistanis in these countries.

Tank Brigade To Return From Saudi Arabia

BK290325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] China will supply to Pakistan about 100 new tanks to reequip Pakistan's 10,000-man tank brigade. PTI quoting a *Washington Post* dispatch from Islamabad says the tank brigade currently in Saudi Arabia is to be sent back home soon following Islamabad's refusal to allow the Saudis to use them against Iran. The brigade was stationed in Saudi Arabia at the Kingdom's request to ward off outside attack.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Congratulate New PRC Premier

BK260801 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have congratulated Li Peng on his appointment as acting premier of China.

In his message to Li Peng, the president expressed confidence that under his wise stewardship, China will continue its spectacular march toward greater progress and prosperity. He noted that with Li Peng's dynamic leadership, the already exemplary relations between Pakistan and China will be further consolidated to the benefit of the people of both countries.

In his message to his Chinese counterpart, the prime minister said: Your appointment to this senior post proves the confidence in your dynamic leadership. Pakistan is certain that in the years ahead, its traditional ties of close friendship, understanding, and cooperation with China will grow deeper in the best interests of both countries.

PRC Auditor General Arrives in Islamabad

BK240859 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The Chinese minister and auditor general, Mr Lu Peijian, arrived in Islamabad today for talks with his Pakistani counterpart on matters of mutual interest. The Chinese minister, who is leading a five-member delegation, has already visited Lahore and Karachi. On arrival at Islamabad Airport, he said his visit seeks to promote further cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of accounting and auditing.

Economic Talks With India To Begin 7 Dec

BK261646 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] The secretary-level meeting between Pakistan and India will begin next month in New Delhi as the follow-up of talks between the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and his Indian counterpart, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Kathmandu earlier this month to resume the process of normalization of relations. The commerce and planning secretaries of the two countries will meet from the 7th of next month to discuss matters relating to bilateral trade and economic relations.

These meetings will be followed by those of interior secretaries to discuss measures for prevention of illegal border crossing and of defense secretaries to discuss the Siachen Glacier issue. The foreign secretaries of the two countries are also due to meet for finalization of a draft agreement on non-attack on each other's nuclear facilities and nonagression, as well as good- neighborly relations. After these meetings a joint ministerial commission of the two countries is expected to meet early next year.

20 Injured in Peshawar Bazaar Blast 28 Nov

BK281646 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 28 (AFP)—A bomb ripped through a market in this northwestern city Saturday injuring some 20 people, including two women and two children, police said. The bomb tore through a clothes shop around midday and destroyed several nearby stores in the Meena Bazaar where angry traders promptly took to the streets in protest, reports said, adding that police used clubs and teargas to break up the demonstration.

Shouting anti-government slogans, the traders and passers-by attacked a bus belonging to an Afghan, wounding several passengers. Peshawar residents, especially traders whose business has dropped because of a recent wave of explosions, have shown increasing hostility towards Afghan refugees, observers noted. Some two million refugees have come to live in this region close to the Afghan border since Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979.

Pakistani authorities suspect the KHAD secret police of the pro-Soviet Kabul regime to be behind this wave of explosions apparently aimed at setting the local population against the refugees.

Austria's Waldheim Continues Official Visit

Visits Afghan Refugees

BK241210 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The Austrian president, Dr Kurt Waldheim, today visited an Afghan refugee tentage village at Gandak in Mardan District. He was accompanied by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the NWFP governor, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan. Speaking on the occasion, the Austrian president said his country will continue to provide assistance to Afghan refugees till they go back to their homeland with dignity and honor. Dr Waldheim said his country was fully aware of the sufferings of m contact with the Pakistan Government for helping them in the best possible way. He said Pakistan, its people, and the leadership deserve high appreciation for providing help to the Afghan refugees in their hour of trial.

In his brief address, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq assured the Afghan refugees that the day was not far when their miseries would end and they would enjoy freedom on their own soil.

The Austrian president also visited a health center set up by the Austrian relief committee. Earlier, the chief commissioner for Afghan refugees informed Dr Waldheim that $362 million have been spent on the welfare of 3.16 million refugees in Pakistan this year. Dr Waldheim arrived in Peshawar this afternoon on a brief visit. He was accompanied by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. At the airport, the distinguished guest was received by the NWFP chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, provincial ministers, senators, MNA's [members of the National Assembly, and MPA's [members of the Provincial Assembly].

Holds News Conference, Departs

BK251642 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] President Kurt Waldheim of Austria has said he has discussed the Afghanistan problem extensively with Pakistani leaders and he hoped that a solution to this problem would be found in the not-too-distant future. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, he said the climate for solution of the Afghan problem now is much better than any time in the past.

Dr Waldheim described his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and other Pakistani officials in Islamabad as very satisfactory. He said the talks covered a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest and international nature. He said Austria has high technology in the field of electronics and he hoped that Austrian firms would soon be visiting Pakistan to have a final agreement with their Pakistani counterparts. He said he also discussed a number of international issues, including the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East with Pakistani leaders.

Replying to a question about Pakistan's proposal for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, the Austrian president said he favored the proposal, as it would help a lot in (?defusing) tension in the region. He said he was of the view that every country had the right to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

The Austrian president was given a warm send-off when he left Karachi for Frankfurt this afternoon after a 3-day state visit to Pakistan. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq bade him farewell at the airport. Earlier, when President Waldheim left Islamabad for Karachi this morning accompanied by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, he was seen off by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo. The ceremonies at Islamabad Airport included a 21-gun salute, a guard of honor, and playing of national anthems of the two countries.

Sri Lanka

Violence Continues Between Tamils, IPKF

IPKF Kills 8 LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK260845 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0824 GMT 26 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 26 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Eight LTTE terrorists and one IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] officer were killed when Indian troops continued to battle terrorists and captue their arms in Jaffna yesterday.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that at Uduvil about 8 kilometers north west of Jaffna town, Indian troops fought LTTE terrorists killing 6 of them and captured three AK-47 rifles, two rocket propelled launchers and a large quantity of ammunition.

In another major confrontation with the LTTE an IPKF officer was killed and three soldiers wounded while two terrorists were killed and nine seriously wounded at Neervelly, about 4 kilometers north east of Jaffna town.

The IPKF captured four AK-47 rifles, one rocket propelled grenade, one M-16 rifle along with a large stock of ammunition.

Meanwhile intelligence reports state that the middle and lower rung cadres of the LTTE were anxious to surrender.

Already LTTE cadres in several areas have deserted.

IPKF Offers Protection to LTTE

BK261640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] It has been officially stated that the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Sri Lanka will offer full security and other facilities to all militant cadres who lay down their arms. Their facilities include free food, shelter and a monthly stipend. Besides protection till normalcy returns, they will be provided vocational or general training and books for resuming their studies. There will be opportunitib or for getting a job.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that armed militant cadres, who wish to take advantage of the offer, should report with their weapons or other equipment to the nearest PKF post. The spokesman said that the government of India is deeply concerned about the welfare of these young cadres of LTTE, who have been misled by the LTTE leadership. While the leaders continue with their hard line and self-centered attitude, there are indications that many cadres are keen to return to a normal and peaceful life.

The spokesman recalled that the peacekeeping force did not open fire on its own for 48 hours but the LTTE had refused to take advantage of this unilateral action.

The spokesman described as totally false and baseless reports appearing in a section of the press that the Jaffna hospital is not being provided with adequate electricity. He said that the hospital is being given round the clock power supply and there is no difficulty in conducting operations. There is also no shortage of food and medicine.

About the LTTE, the spokesman said those who have surrendered to the Peacekeeping Force have revealed that the medium and lower rank cadres are keen to give up their arms.

LTTE Kill 7 Indian Soldiers

BK280340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven peacekeeping force [PKF] personnel were killed and five others wounded when the LTTE fired on a PKF patrol in Mulliyawalai, southwest of Mullaittivu. The incident occurred during the course of search operations for weapons and ammunition. The LTTE casualties are not yet known.

Civilians Die in Grenade Attack

BK281609 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Five civilians were killed and four were wounded when LTTE terrorists lobbed grenades at a queue of Jaffna residents waiting for food at a relief distributing centre in Chavakachcheri, this morning.

Office sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the residents had queued up at the Indian relief distributing center at 1000 hours (local time) today when two LTTE terrorists wearing wearing civilian clothes walked up and hurled two grenades at the queue.

Official sources said that the motive behind thb ongoing relief efforts of the Sri Lanka and Indian Governments and to terrorize the Jaffna residents.

IPKF Apprehends 10 LTTE Men

BK290316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] have apprehended 10 LTTE men at Tirunelvil, Chavakachcheri and (Kulam) near Jaffna. At Kokuvil, the PKF seized several sophisticated transmission sets, communication equipment, and arms and ammunition belonging to the LTTE.

Steps To Improve Jaffna Hospital Services

BK271140 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Nov 87

[Text] The government has taken necessary action to improve the services of the Jaffna hospital with immediate effect. The minister of women's affairs and teaching hospitals, Sunethra Ranasinghe, met the High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, and had discussions regarding coordinating work in the Jaffna General Hospital. Mr Dixit clarified the position regarding the situation today at the Jaffna hospital. The director, Dr S. Nachinarkiniar, is back in charge of the hospital. Colonel S. Puri and Colonel Sathyapalan, who are doctors for the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] are coordinating and assisting the director. Most of the doctors are now back at work. It was decided to get the help of the IPKF to provide transport for the nurses to enable them to report to duty. Special attention will be given to the supply of food to the hospital and the staff. A lorry load of drugs will be taken today to the Jaffna hospital.

In future, lorries will be sent by the Jaffna hospital to Colombo to transport drugs. The Peacekeeping Force and the Joint Operations Command will provide security cover for the vehicles. It was decided to airlift vaccines once a week to Jaffna. Mr Dixit has promised to coordinate and cooperate in the management of the Jaffna hospital.

Finance Minister on Aid Needed for Economy

BK241212 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Sri Lanka will need 80 to 100 billion rupees in foreign aid in the next 3 months just to keep going. This was stated by Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel when he delivered a public talk on the salient features of the budget at the Sri Lanka professional center yesterday. The country at present spends almost twice the revenue which she cannot afford.

The minister said that if we are to have a better tomorrow, we should to stick to our estimates and targets. If progress is to be achieved in our development program, peace, law, and order in the country were a must.

Mr de Mel pointed out that Sri Lanka would not be able to embark on development programs if she was unable to raise loans from the World Bank and other international organizations. Even the proposed salary increase would not have been possible if we were unable to get foreign aid. Likewise, the integrated rural development programs, which have created job avenues for the rural youths, would also not have been possible.

Referring to privatization, the minister said this will enable more people to become shareholders in private enterprises. He observed that if we were to have a better future, much attention should be paid to our economic growth and reduce the deficit as well as inflation.